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UN resumes Iraqi arms inspections

BAGHDAD (Reuters) — UN arms monitors, including Americans, ended their first day of renewed inspections yesterday with no problems, following a tense three-week standoff, Iraq and the UN said.

Six groups of inspectors visited eight sites placed under monitoring. The Iraqi side accompanied the teams, offered them help and assistance to reach these sites and leave them in an easy way and without any problems," the official Iraqi news agency INA said, quoting the head of the Iraqi National Monitoring Directorate.

Nils Carlstrom, director of the UN Baghdad Monitoring and Verification Center, said that American monitors took part in the inspections and all the teams returned to base "with no problems."

INA said Iraqi technicians at the sites responded to all the questions raised by the monitors.

"Each visit lasted several hours. It was ascertained by every team that the cameras, their accessories, and other monitoring means were working in a natural way, without impediment or damage," INA said.

Carlstrom, who is a major-general in the Swedish army, declined

to reveal the outcome of the inspections.

"The result of the inspection will be reported to New York and Vienna," he said. "The teams were allowed to proceed upon arrival at different sites. The Iraqi authorities conducted themselves in a professional way."

Iraq had barred Americans working in UN monitoring groups from entering weapons sites from October 29. The United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM) cancelled its inspections in response and pulled out the whole team a day after Iraq, on November 13, expelled the Americans, accusing them of being spies.

Between 70 and 80 UN inspectors flew into Iraq from Bahrain on Friday, after an accord brokered by Russia.

INA said the monitors saw that the dual-use equipment, that can be used for both military and civilian purposes, was back in place in the sites they visited. Earlier Iraq had said it removed certain machines from sites to safeguard them from a possible military strike by Washington.

See IRAQ, Page 2



US President Bill Clinton on Friday accepts the 1997 Man of Peace Award from Leah Rabin and MK Shimon Peres at a White House ceremony. The award is given by a foundation established in honor of the late prime minister Yitzhak Rabin and his successor, Peres. (AP)

Clinton appeals to Israel, Palestinians to move forward

By HILLY KUTTLER

WASHINGTON — President Bill Clinton on Friday called on Israel and the Palestinians to "intensively" tackle the next set of issues to move the peace process forward.

In an extraordinarily blunt appeal to both sides, Clinton castigated them for putting brinkmanship ahead of cooperation, and urged them to "realize the need for urgency," because "the window of progress will become smaller with time."

Clinton's comments were all the more stark coming at a White House ceremony at which he accepted the 1997 Man of Peace Award from a foundation established in honor of the late prime minister Yitzhak Rabin and his successor Shimon Peres.

The event drew a high-profile audience that included former secretaries of state Warren Christopher and Cyrus Vance; Nobel Peace Prize laureate Elie Wiesel; Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. Henry Shelton and predecessor Gen. Colin Powell; the ambassadors of Israel, Jordan, and Egypt; and officials from the Arab- and Jewish-American communities.

With Peres and Leah Rabin at his side at the East Room event, Clinton spoke with typical warmth about his close relationship with Rabin. He mentioned that on a table in his office one floor above sits the kippa he wore at Rabin's funeral, along with a stone from the grave site and one of the last photographs taken of the "two together," of Clinton adjusting Rabin's bow tie.

Clinton restated the so-called four-part agenda that the administration had identified in September as necessary for proceeding beyond the interim-phase negotiations: security cooperation, the IDF's required redeployments, a "time-out on provocative actions," and moving to final-status talks.

"By addressing these issues, we can establish for Israelis and Palestinians that peace will bring tangible benefits. By speeding the progress on this track, we can move closer to invigorating

negotiations between Israel and Lebanon, and Israel and Syria, to establish a lasting and comprehensive peace," Clinton said.

"In recent months, you have to acknowledge at least that the pace of change has slowed and that the bonds of trust have eroded on both sides," he said. "The answer is not to bemoan the present condition, but to renew our resolve to move forward."

Clinton paid tribute to Peres for having "stayed true to the path" of peace after Rabin's assassination and added: "We know from experience both before and since that progress is possible and progress is difficult, that barriers fall only if people show a consistent and constant will to move forward, guided by and bound to several principles... Israelis and Palestinians must embrace the spirit at the heart of the Oslo Accords, not jockeying for advantage but working together for the benefit of both sides."

"Both sides must dedicate themselves to building confidence step by step, through a series of agreements on issues affecting both Palestinians and Israelis. Both sides must refrain from actions that undermine the joint pledge they have made to strengthen security. Both sides must approach each other as partners joined by the prospect of peace and security. And both sides must live up to the letter and the spirit of their obligations."

In a briefing later in the day State Department spokesman Tom Foley said the US is "impatient... with the lack of progress on the tough issues" of the four-part agenda. "We want to see progress. And we're hoping that the leaders in the region will demonstrate the commitment to treating each side as partners and to taking each other's needs into account and to taking bold steps to meet each other half way," Foley said.

AP adds:

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's adviser David Bar-Ilan said yesterday that Israel is living up to its side of the Oslo Accords, but that the Palestinians are not.

"We have never done anything we consider provocative," Bar-Ilan said. "We have fulfilled every obligation we have undertaken."

Livnat considers quitting

By SARAH HONIG

Communications Minister Limor Livnat kept the Likud waiting to hear whether she will resign, while Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo last night denied that he will register a new centrist party today.

Until any of the Likud's rebels or potential rebels take any concrete steps, the insurrection against Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu has effectively been put on hold, party sources said over the weekend.

In Friday night interviews on both TV channels, Netanyahu sought to play down the moves to depose him, saying: "They are the words of a handful of implacable foes, who opposed me from the outset and foment and exploit any disturbance."

He again vowed not to interfere with the probe by the inquiry team appointed last week to look into the Likud's recent ill-fated convention. He promised that its brief would not be restricted and that he would abide by its findings, conclusions, and recommendations.

Milo denied press reports that he will register a new party this week and begin the six-week process of having it formally ratified. Milo said that "if all efforts to cure the Likud of its ills fail, and if there is no hope left to breathe new life into the party, then I will in all likelihood embark on a new political venture. This will happen in the not-too-distant future, if it will happen at all, but not this week."

Livnat reportedly told Netanyahu at their two meetings last week that she is "considering resigning." Netanyahu, according to Likud sources, replied that he wants her to "stay and to continue leading the revolution in Israeli communications."

Livnat's parting words were that she would think it over and that they will meet again.

However, a source close to Livnat said that she is facing a real dilemma. While she has lost faith in Netanyahu and is very close to feeling that she should not remain in his government, she is keenly aware that the rebellion, which Milo announced last week with much fanfare, shows no sign of proceeding. If it does not gain immediate momentum, resigna-

tion might gain her kudos from the anti-Netanyahu press, but eventually she will lose influence and fade into the background.

One of her more overriding concerns is that any move she makes may lead to a Labor victory at the polls.

Reports in the Likud over the weekend spoke of Tzipi Livni as her possible replacement as communications minister. Livni, the daughter of late Likud MK Eitan Livni, is an attorney and has been in charge of the privatization of government-owned companies. The signal to Livnat is that she is not indispensable.

At the same time, however, a top source in Netanyahu's bureau said that the prime minister sincerely wants Livnat to stay despite their troubled relationship. Netanyahu, the source noted, realizes that Livnat is well-regarded by the media and could make or break the rebellion against him.

Netanyahu has reportedly asked Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman to prevail on both Livnat and Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert not to shake the government.

Netanyahu told his TV interviewers on Friday that those rebelling against him "did not receive a mandate to place spokes in the government's wheels. They are pursuing a dishonest, hypocritical, and unconscionable course. They are fully entitled to hate me, but not to foil the coalition on critical votes such as the budget."

He contended that he had decided on an inquiry into the convention even before he left for London and the US last week. "Extremely serious accusations were hurled into the air and I was not ready to let them hover over our heads unexamined. The inquiry will include everyone — myself, Ivet, [Avigdor Lieberman, director-general of the Prime Minister's Office], and anyone else the committee deems necessary. I undertake here and now to fully accept any recommendation the committee makes."

Labor Party leader Ehud Barak said last night that he thinks "early elections are now more likely than ever. We have seen a continuous crisis, and I predict that this government won't last longer than three more months."

Aziz in Syria to 'end ideological enmity'

By JAY BUSHINSKY and news agencies

Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz's talks with Syrian leaders yesterday were described by Israeli observers as signaling an end to the ideological enmity that has existed between Baghdad and Damascus for two decades.

Middle East experts here contend that it constitutes a "sea change" in the long-frozen relations between Iraq and Syria, attributing it to the military pressure being exerted by the US on Saddam Hussein.

Not only do they see it as negative fallout from the current crisis, but also as evidence that the coalition assembled by the Bush administration on the eve of the Gulf War "no longer exists."

Syria and Iraq recently resumed trade relations and opened their borders to exchange visits, the Associated Press said.

Aziz went to Damascus to urge senior Syrian officials to support the lifting of the sanctions imposed by the UN on Iraq seven years ago. He conferred in Damascus with Vice President Abdul Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Farouk Shara.

Aziz has stopped in several Arab states, including Morocco and Egypt, to mobilize support for the lifting of the sanctions, imposed after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

He proceeded from Syria to Jordan where, according to Channel 1, he met with King Hussein before returning to Baghdad.

Aziz has led an intensive two-week diplomatic drive through Europe, the Middle East, the US, and Russia to put Iraq's case to the

world.

Aziz said as a result of his efforts, "Opportunities for the support of our legal demand for the lifting of the blockade are now better than some weeks ago. I think Iraq's case has become clearer to the world and the member states of the Security Council."

Speaking in Amman, he said, however, that the crisis with the UN is not over.

"The crisis, in terms of the continuation of the sanctions and the unbalanced position in the Security Council, is not over," Aziz told reporters. "We still have a lot of work to correct the situation which led to our decision of October 29th," he said, referring to Baghdad's decision not to allow American weapons inspectors into its weapon sites.

Syria agreed to send forces to the anti-Iraq military buildup in Saudi Arabia during the Gulf War, but they are not known to have participated in actual combat.

In a reversal of its former position, however, Syria now opposes American military action against Iraq.

Aziz is the highest Iraqi official to visit the Syrian capital in the past 17 years. The two states severed diplomatic relations in 1980 when Syria sided with Iran in the 1980-87 Iran-Iraq war.

The fact that Aziz was welcomed there appears to reflect the widespread sympathy in the Arab world for Saddam as a national hero purportedly being bullied by the world's sole superpower, the US.

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright was told of the strong pro-Saddam sentiment that exists in the Palestinian Authority when she conferred in London with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu. But a highly-placed source who heard Netanyahu's presentation said she refrained from comment.

Albright also declined to react to the unequivocal support of Iraq and condemnation of "US aggression" expressed in the Palestinian press, radio, and TV, when asked about this at her joint news conference in London with Netanyahu.



Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz (Reuters)

'Nobody promised a settlement freeze'

By JAY BUSHINSKY

"The premier did not promise anyone he would freeze settlements," Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's spokesman, Shai Bazak, said yesterday, denying a report that a pledge to this effect had been made to US President Bill Clinton.

Bazak's disclaimer ran counter to a report aired on Channel 1, according to which MK Shimon Peres quoted Clinton as having told him Netanyahu had promised him a settlement freeze.

One of the possibilities raised by senior officials was that Clinton "may have whispered something in Peres's ear at dinner in Washington this weekend," but they contended that no one else heard what he said — neither the diplomats nor the correspondents at the scene.

"It is extremely unlikely that the president would say such a thing," a source said. He stressed that Clinton would be "way out of line" if indeed he did say such a thing, "because it simply is not true."

On the other hand, if Peres invented this, he went on, he could be criticized for acting against the Israeli government's interests by spreading false rumors.

"The question is, who is the culprit," the source said. "Whether Peres or [Channel 1 correspondent] Ehud Ya'ari exaggerated this is something we do not know."

Hanegbi: Deri not behind amnesty plan

By BAT-SHEVA TSUR and Him

There is no plan on the part of Shas MK Aryeh Deri to arrange a general amnesty on the country's 50th anniversary to free him from his current fraud trial and facing other charges filed against him, Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi said Friday.

Deri wrote to Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein requesting that he be excluded from a general amnesty, proving there is no conspiracy to arrange such a pardon, Hanegbi said.

The cabinet is to hear proposals today for projects marking the jubilee and is to approve its NIS 120 million budget.

Several ministers were expected to raise the controversial suggestion, proposed by the jubilee committee, that the Knesset pass a law granting wide-scale amnesty. The proposal has drawn fire from several ministers and from Rubinstein.

Earlier, Rubinstein had come out against a general amnesty and urged legislators to think "what the country would look like if there were suddenly large numbers of prisoners roaming around free."

His predecessor, Michael Ben-

Yair, expressed similar sentiments over the weekend.

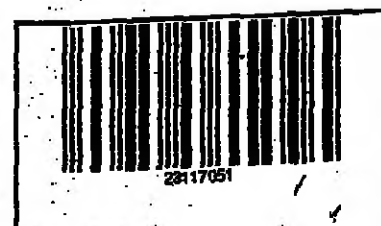
Communications Minister Limor Livnat (Likud) joined Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy (National Religious Party) in condemning the proposal for a general pardon.

Levy said that a general amnesty could cause grave harm to society.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said last night at a gathering for wounded Armored Corps soldiers that he opposes a general amnesty, but that a limited number of pardons — "more than in an ordinary year" — should be granted during the jubilee.

On the other hand, Interior Minister Eli Suissa (Shas) came out in favor. "We have to cross out their names in red, to clean them all," Suissa said. "In the same way as terrorists are released, Jews can be granted pardons, and this includes public figures," he said, without mentioning Deri, and he denied that Deri was behind the proposal.

Metzger leader Yossi Sarid, however, said the same people who were behind the appointment of Roni Bar-On as attorney-general are now the ones who are backing this new proposal.



NEWS

in brief

Activists demonstrate for Lebanon pullout

More than 200 protesters demonstrated in the North yesterday, calling for the IDF to withdraw from Lebanon. The demonstration, which began at Rosh Hanikra and continued at Kibbutz Eilon, was organized by the Four Mothers group. "For very questionable reasons, we are sending our soldiers to a war they cannot win," said 27-year-old demonstrator Arik Ben-Zvi, who served in Lebanon. *News agencies*

Kiryat Shmona mayor quits

Kiryat Shmona Mayor Prosper Azran announced his resignation Friday night, saying he could not preside over the town's recovery program as planned by the Interior Ministry. Azran said he could not fire the municipal employees demanded by the ministry, "leaving them helpless in the face of a difficult security situation." About 60 percent of the town's budget is spent on municipal salaries, a fact which is said to stymie Kiryat Shmona's development. The town's deficit is said to be "scores of millions of shekels." The town council is to meet today to appoint a new mayor. *Itim*

Korean deputy premier arrives today

South Korean Deputy Premier and National Unification Minister Kwon O-Kie arrives today. The Foreign Ministry said he will be the most senior Korean official to visit since the premier's visit for Yitzhak Rabin's funeral. He will meet with President Ezer Weizman, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Foreign Minister David Levy, and other ministers and senior officials. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

Man and woman run over by train

A man and woman, both in their forties and unidentified, were run over and killed by the Haifa-Tel Aviv passenger train near Kibbutz Hahotrim last night. Police are investigating. *Itim*

Man, 74, suspected of murdering son-in-law

Michael Walgerstein, 74, of Ofakim, was arrested on suspicion he killed his son-in-law, Victor Zachrov, with an ax on Friday night, claiming he wanted to protect himself, his daughter, and his grandchildren from ongoing violent abuse. Walgerstein, who lived with the couple, attacked Zachrov after trying to force him out of the house, after Zachrov had beat his daughter, Tatiana, yet again, he said. Neighbors said Zachrov, who was unemployed, would often beat his wife. Tatiana said she never complained to police about the abuse because "he was the father of my children." Walgerstein was remanded last night for 10 days by the Beersheba Magistrate's Court. *Itim*

'No EU letter blasting PM'

By JAY BUSHINSKY

Foreign diplomatic sources have denied that French Foreign Minister Hubert Vedrine is bringing a letter to Jerusalem assailing Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for torpedoing the Middle East peace process.

An official denial that French President Jacques Chirac, German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, and British Prime Minister Tony Blair signed such a letter is being issued by the Quai d'Orsay, the sources said.

This contradicts a Channel 2 report that the three Western European leaders had issued a "very forceful demand" that Israel fulfill its commitment to carry out a second troop pullback in the West Bank this month.

However, other diplomatic quar-

ters say Vedrine will convey a verbal message from Blair, Chirac, and Kohl to the effect that they consider it Israel's responsibility that the peace process move forward and attribute the current stalemate to Netanyahu's policies. These quarters said there is a consensus between Great Britain, France, and Germany on this issue and that Blair spelled it out to Netanyahu at their meeting November 13 in London.

A senior Israeli official said that if the Channel 2 story was untrue the implications would be "very serious." However, he withheld further comment until Vedrine's rendezvous with Netanyahu tomorrow.

The letter's text reportedly blames Israel for lack of progress in the talks with the Palestinian Authority.

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Less than 72 hours after yeshiva student Gavriel Hirschberg was shot dead in an alley in the Moslem Quarter of Jerusalem's Old City, Maimon Akiva, 20, was lightly injured when a Palestinian youth attacked him with a utility knife near Damascus Gate yesterday at noon.

This morning, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will visit the site where Wednesday's attack took place and will later address students at the Ateret Cohanim yeshiva.

Israel Television reported that the flag will be raised on the police station near the yeshiva this morning to stress the Jewish presence in the Old City.

Yesterday's attack was carried out despite a beefed-up security presence and the reopening of a police station in the Moslem Quarter following the attack that killed Hirschberg and seriously wounded Benjamin Dil, 18.

The Palestinian Authority has strongly protested the opening of the police station. Information Minister Yasser Abed Rabbo charged there would be severe repercussions. He charged the police station was the home of the Tahrir family.

Following yesterday's attack, reportedly the result of a scuffle between Arab and Israeli youths, Jerusalem Police Chief Cmdr. Yair Yitzhaki called on both sides to maintain the calm.



Border policemen round up suspects after yesterday's stabbing in the Moslem Quarter of the Old City.

(Brian Hendler)

According to Jerusalem Police spokeswoman Michal Tzimer, Akiva told police he had entered the Old City to pray at one of the

yeshivot when an Arab approached him and kicked him. Akiva said he returned the kick and then the Arab pulled out a knife and attempted to

stab him in the neck. The Arab fled, he said, and he ran to a Border Police patrol, which alerted the authorities. He was taken to Shaare

Zedek Hospital.

Tzimer said several Arabs were detained for questioning but no arrests had been made.

Palestinian bombmaker blows himself up

By ARNOLD O'SULLIVAN

The Palestinian chemistry teacher who blew himself up in the West Bank village of Rafat on Friday evening was a member of Hamas, military sources said. Evidence found at the scene indicated he had been preparing a bomb.

Badran Abdo, 23, was killed outright in the explosion, which demolished a room in his parent's home. Relatives said they had been watching TV in another room when the explosion occurred. They rushed in to find

his mangled body.

The IDF Spokesman said troops arrived about a quarter hour after the explosion. They found shrapnel, the chemical acetone, batteries, electric wires, and a device for measuring the flow of electricity — all items used for manufacturing bombs — in the demolished room.

Army Radio said Abdo had been suspected of involvement in previous bombings, but military sources could only confirm that he was a known Hamas activist.

Rafat is a Hamas stronghold and

hometown of the slain Yihye Ayyash, the infamous "Engineer."

Immediately after locating the site of the explosion, soldiers sealed off the village and rounded up residents for questioning, the army said. One man was taken in, military sources said. Villagers reportedly identified that man as Majid Ayyash, a relative of Yihye Ayyash.

Relatives said that Abdo's father, Awad, and brother, Bilal, are currently in Israeli prisons. Another brother, Talal, said the IDF took Abdo's body.

Iraq demo in Nablus

By STEVE RODAN and MOHAMMED NAJIB

Several hundred Hamas members and supporters demonstrated yesterday in Nablus to mark the 10th anniversary of the intifada.

The date marked is the one chosen by Hamas as the day when Palestinians began their resistance to the Israeli presence in the territories. The PLO marks the date in December.

Demonstrators burned US and Israeli flags and simulated mock terrorist attacks in the courtyard of An-Najah University. Students dressed up as suicide bombers paraded in the courtyard and staged explosions of buses made of cartons.

The university's administration, apparently mindful of the Palestinian Authority, prevented journalists and photographers from entering the campus. Instead, photographers clicked away from outside the gates.

The demonstration was not reported by Palestinian radio or television, but PA-aligned media carried harsh statements by PA officials as well as assessments that the peace process has died.

"The Oslo process is, for all practical purposes, dead," Hani Hourani, an adviser to PA Chairman Yasser Arafat told the newspaper *Al-Bilad*. "The process did not die just because of the policies of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, but rather because of elements that are imbedded in the agreement itself."

Palestinian shot dead running roadblock

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Bethlehem resident Jimmy Kanawati, 36, was shot dead by border policemen yesterday morning after the car he was driving ran their roadblock near the capital's southern Gilo neighborhood.

At 4:30 a.m. a police patrol driving along Derech Hebron signalled Kanawati to stop his car, according to Jerusalem police spokesman Shmuel Ben-Ruby. Kanawati ignored their request and sped toward the roadblock, attempting to run down a policeman who asked him to stop.

As Kanawati's car broke through the roadblock going toward Bethlehem the border policemen fired at the back of the car, hitting him. A passenger, 36-year-old Jamil Juwani, was not injured.

Ben-Ruby said Kanawati, who held an El Salvador passport, and Juwani, the bearer of a Honduras passport, were both intoxicated. Police are investigating.

At Kanawati's home in Bethlehem people flocked to pay condolences to the well known family.

His father, Rimona, said on Israel Television last night, "There is no peace, no security, no nothing."

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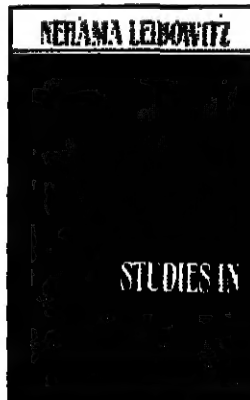
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The funeral will take place today, Sunday, November 23, 1997 (23 Heshvan 5758), at 3:45 p.m. at the Kfar Shmaryahu Cemetery.

A special bus will leave from the Y. Hillel travel agency, Rehov Ben-Yehuda 62, Tel Aviv, at 3 p.m.

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AVRAHAM STUCHINSKY ז"ל

and expresses its sympathy to the family

The funeral will take place today, Sunday, November 23, 1997 (23 Heshvan 5758), at 3:45 p.m. at the Kfar Shmaryahu Cemetery.

A special bus will leave from the Y. Hillel travel agency, Rehov Ben-Yehuda 62, Tel Aviv, at 3 p.m.

The board of directors and the board of trustees.

מזמן אלמל

Hospitals on Shabbat schedule

By JUDY SIEGEL

Public hospitals around the country — general, geriatric and psychiatric — will be run from 7 a.m. today until 7 a.m. tomorrow according to a reduced Shabbat schedule.

The continuing sanctions by members of the Israel Medical Association go into their 11th week today, with nearly 18,000 non-emergency operations and even more visits to outpatient clinics and diagnostic institutes postponed so far.

Only Netanya's Laniado Hospital, whose workers have a no-strike clause in their contracts, and the private hospitals will function normally.

IMA chairman Dr. Yoram

Blachar said he was shocked that the Treasury, which last March signed an agreement to finance 360 doctors' job slots in the public hospitals, continues to refuse to implement it.

The ministry, he said, "isn't trying to find a solution to hospital overcrowding and has ignored the IMA's proposal for a speeded-up mediation process to find ways to finance the costs of additional manpower," he said.

The Treasury wants the hospitals themselves to absorb the extra costs.

"It seems that the Health Ministry stands impotent in the face of Treasury heartlessness and violations of an agreement," said Blachar. "The Finance Ministry is, in effect, running the health system."

3 held for selling stolen medicines

By MARGOT DUKKEVITCH

Police have arrested three men on suspicion they stole medicines and planned to sell them to Palestinians in the territories.

An undercover policeman, posing as a Palestinian, met with the three men, seeking to purchase the medicine, according to Judea and Samaria Police spokesman Opher Sivan.

The two arranged to meet him on Thursday night, at a warehouse owned by Maor in the Ariel industrial zone, and to sell him the medicine for NIS 400,000. As they began their transaction, the brothers were arrested.

Police said the two had planned to sell the policeman 37 boxes of different kinds of medicines. Police believe the medication was stolen from a warehouse in Tel Aviv on October 17.

Sivan said a third person, Benjamin Ze'ev Gross of Yaffo, was held for storing the medicines.

Hussein to visit Iran

AMMAN (AP) — King Hussein will attend next month's Islamic summit in Teheran, his first visit to the Islamic Republic since the 1979 revolution.

A palace official said Hussein will head a ministerial delegation to the December 9-11 summit of the Organization of Islamic Conference.

The official Iranian news agency said Friday that Jordan's ambassador to Teheran, Nuh Salman, informed Iranian officials of the king's planned participation.

Jordan and Iran restored diplomatic ties in 1990 which were broken after Amman backed Baghdad in the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war.

Relations remain lukewarm, however, because the king blames Iran for supporting Islamic militant groups in his country.

In September 1996, Iran's parliament suspended a bill that called for establishing trade ties with Jordan, citing the kingdom's growing ties with Israel following the 1994 peace treaty.



Mourning terror victim

Friends of Gavriel Hirschberg, who was killed in Wednesday night's terror shooting in Jerusalem's Old City, mourn at his grave after his funeral Friday. Hirschberg was eulogized by Chief Rabbi Yisrael Lau, and Rabbi Shlomo Aviner, head of the Ateret Cohanim Yeshiva, where he was studying. The government was represented by Finance Minister Yankov Neeman. Binyamin Dil, who was seriously wounded in the shooting, had improved over the weekend and was listed in satisfactory condition.

(Text: Ima; Photo: Brian Handler)

HEBREW PRESS REVIEW

By ORLY AHARONI

Another round

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's proposals that an investigative committee probe the affairs of the Likud convention and that a poll be conducted among Likud members in order to reconsider the abandonment of the primaries were skeptically received.

"The prime minister has drawn the Likud into a political whirlpool," writes Ma'ariv's Shalom Yerushalmi, adding that the suggestions will only create more hostility among Likud central committee members and from his director-general, Avigdor Lieberman.

Ha'aretz's Yossi Venter questions the practicality of conducting a poll: "How will the poll be conducted? Does the Likud constitution allow it?... Netanyahu did not answer any of these questions." He adds that the crisis has gained Netanyahu time, but "if the pretty words are shown empty of meaning, or if another Bar-On Affair emerges, [ambivalent MKs] will cross the red lines."

Yediot Aharanot's Bina Barzel believes that the announcement will not end the crisis, only postpone it. "According to the immediate responses, it seems that whoever distrusted him, continues to distrust; whoever scorned him, continues to do so."

"Whoever thinks that Bibi has survived, is wrong because it is just a matter of time until he falls," claims Ha'aretz's Yoel Marcus, who adds that "there is no country that can be governed by a man whose only truth is a lie."

The successor

Following last week's intrigues after Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo's revelation of plans within the Likud to oust Netanyahu, the media pondered who his successor might be.

Yediot's Nahum Barnea asserts that this is the first time that a crisis is due to personal, not ideological conflicts. If the ministers find a way to oust Netanyahu, "Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai is the convenient, natural choice," adding that "from all of the poisonous Israeli polarity, he is the least polar."

"The Likud was almost ready to wage a war this week," writes Ma'ariv's Sima Kadmon, "the

only thing it lacked was a leader." She writes that there is no love lost between Milo and Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert, who both view their mayoralty as a "stepping stone to the premiership, but the problem is that there are two municipalities and only one prime minister."

"The haredi vote belongs to Olmert in a prime ministerial election," states Yediot's Yael Gvirtz, "only if he is able to stop the claim that the fall of Netanyahu will bring about the rise of Labor Party leader Ehud Barak." She adds that "Milo was the first to throw the stone into the water, but once the ripples calm down, Olmert will be revealed."

In an interview with Ronel Fischer in Ma'ariv, Milo said that if he were to run for prime minister, it would be in the framework of a new centrist party.

Existing threat

Iraq's decision to allow the return of UN inspectors, including Americans, is a temporary victory for Iraq, media commentators concluded, cautioning against a future threat.

"Even if the current crisis subsides... the next one is just around the corner," claims Ma'ariv's Ofer Shelah. In light of the number of casualties from a military action, he writes, "the damage caused by a significant action against Iraq [by Israel] may be greater than remaining passive; those who opposed action in 1991 were right and probably are today."

Ha'aretz's Zvi Barzel writes that the three weeks the UN inspectors were gone gave the Iraqis time to move their biological warfare installations to other sites. Furthermore, "the Western armies lack the effective means to identify biological attacks."

Under the weather

The speculation regarding Palestinian Authority Chairman, Yasser Arafat's health continues to occupy the press. Ma'ariv's Oded Granot claims that the rumors regarding Arafat's deterioration are probably exaggerated, adding that according to an Arafat aide, "The sicker the peace process, the more the rumors regarding Arafat's condition accelerate."

Netanyahu goes to Hollywood

"Anyone who did not see Netanyahu's joy in Hollywood has never seen joy in his life," writes Meir Shalev in Yediot, following Netanyahu's visit with Arnold Schwarzenegger. He adds that Netanyahu felt

good in his natural environment, with people just like him, actors, to whom pretense is a profession and the mask a tool of deception, which is their objective."

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NEWS

in brief

School starts late for some

The Teachers Union has decided to strike third, ninth and 11th grades this morning to protest what it claims is the failure of the Education Ministry to make good on promises to return teachers and teaching hours to the system.

As a result, these grades will start classes at 9. Union head Avraham Ben-Shabbat said that the move was only the first step in protesting the failure to completely honor the agreement reached with the Education Ministry and the Finance Ministry, which allowed classes to open this school year.

Aryeh Dean Cohen

Ministry to fund development-town nurseries

The Education Ministry announced last night it will pay nursery-school tuition for three- and four-year-olds in those development towns which have been cut off from such funding by a recent inter-ministerial committee decision. Minister Ze'ev Hammer said in a statement the ministry will pay the tuition from its 1997 budget reserves, in order to keep the advancement of the country's outlying population as a top government priority. Jerusalem Post Staff

Parents end hunger strike

The parents of pupils not allowed to enroll in the Mikve Yisrael Agricultural School ended their hunger strike, which started last Sunday, on Friday after reaching an agreement with Mayor Moti Sasson, brokered by Aryeh Shumer, director-general of the president's bureau.

Under the agreement, the pupils will be enrolled in homogeneous classes in two other schools in the city, rather than being scattered among seventh-grade classes in all the city's junior highs. They will study natural and environmental sciences at Mikve Yisrael for a day-and-a-half each week. Irim

Pesticide kills 15 birds, sickens 40

Fifteen birds of prey have died and 40 are sick from illegal spraying of pesticide in fields around Kibbutz Maoz Haim. According to the Nature Reserves Authority, the deaths and sickness were likely caused by the birds eating carcasses of small animals or insects killed by the pesticide. Among the victims were black kites, owls, a buzzard, and kestrels; their bodies were burned to avoid further chain poisoning. The sick birds are being treated with atropine.

A police complaint has been filed against the farmer responsible under the Wildlife Protection Law and for improper use of pesticide. He is subject to a fine up to NIS 49,000 or three years in prison. Liat Collins

US cautions travelers

The State Department on Thursday advised US citizens residing or traveling abroad to exercise "greater than usual caution," in light of events unfolding throughout the world. It cited the murders of four businessmen in Karachi, Pakistan, the Luxor massacre, and the "general situation" in the Middle East. Jerusalem Post Staff

World Bank: Make Gaza a free trade zone

The World Bank proposed on Thursday that the Gaza Strip become a free trade zone in order to improve economic conditions and attract foreign business. Isaac Diwan, who heads the World Bank's Economic Development Institute, said at a conference on economic development at An-Najah University that such a move could quickly improve life in Gaza, where a recent World Bank study found more than a third of the residents live in poverty. Other World Bank proposals included new industrial zones in the West Bank and Gaza and increasing Palestinian firms' productivity.

Palestinian Authority Trade Minister Maher Masri said the proposals required more study but the free trade zone idea would be considered. AP

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Greek Jews finally get memorial

By PATRICK QUINN

SALONIKA (AP) — Once the thriving hub of a Jewish community dating back more than 2,000 years, Greece's few remaining Jews will once again gather in Salonika today to remember tens of thousands of relatives and neighbors who perished in Nazi concentration camps.

But behind the memorial, whose guest list includes Greece's president, the survivors ponder a potentially embarrassing subject for Greek officials: What took so long?

"This is a question that hurts as well," said Moses Constantini, general secretary of the Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece.

After 52 years, Greece's government gave the go-ahead for a monument to the nearly 50,000 Jews of Salonika killed during the 1941-45 occupation.

More than 17,000 Jews from other parts of Greece also died in the camps and today there are fewer than 5,000 Jews among Greece's 10.2 million people. About 1,000 Jews remain in the Salonika.

"This monument has great importance for us and is very emotional... It represents the millions of victims and those in Salonika who paid a very high price," Constantini said.

Salonika's Holocaust monument, a three-meter high bronze menorah will be erected in a central square that served as the site where Jews were gathered before being sent to concentration camps.

Of the 2,000 or so that survived the camps, only 40 are still alive in Greece today.

"There were many attempts to erect a monument, but a decision was taken just one year ago," Constantini said.

There are few, if any, official explanations for the decades it took the Greek state to decide on a monument. But some of its causes may lie in the powerful influence of the Greek Orthodox Church, the officially recognized state religion, and the policies of successive governments toward Israel.

Greece, which for decades has had warm ties with Arab states, only recognized Israel in the early 1950s.

Today's unveiling will be carried out by President Costis

Stephanopoulos, and attended by scores of Australian, American, European, and Israeli Jewish leaders and rabbis. Three members of the US Congress are also scheduled to attend.

Jewish communities in Greece date back as far as 513 B.C. A huge wave arrived in Salonika from Spain during the 15th century. By the end of that century, Salonika had 29,000 residents, half of whom were Jews.

Salonika blossomed as a center for Balkan Jews at the start of the 20th century, when the community made up half the population of about 150,000. The decline began in 1922, when Greece lost a war with Turkey and the city was swamped with more than 100,000 Greek refugees from Asia Minor, forever altering the balance between Christians and Jews.

A series of anti-Jewish decrees led to the destruction of one of the city's Jewish quarters in 1931, leading to the first exodus of Jews. More than 10,000 fled to what was then Palestine.

By 1940, shortly before the Nazi invasion of Greece, there were just under 50,000 Jews in the city, about one-sixth of its population.



Hebron celebration

Worshippers gather outside the Machpela Cave in Hebron yesterday, the Shabbat on which the Torah portion mentioning Abraham's purchase of the cave is read. Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman and his family were among hundreds of guests visiting the town. (Reuters)

Germans to attend Nazi gold conference

BONN (AP) — The German Foreign Ministry is sending a delegation to attend a British-sponsored Nazi gold conference scheduled for December 2-4 in London, a ministry spokesman said yesterday.

The delegation will join some 40 nations invited to the conference to discuss questions on restitution for Holocaust victims or whether countries looted by the Nazis should be compensated, the spokesman said. He could not immediately say who would head the German delegation.

After the war, Britain, France and the United States set up a Tripartite Gold Commission to return gold grabbed by the Nazis from state treasuries when they plundered much of Europe.

Since then, the commission has returned more than 300 tons of gold to Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Greece, Austria, Albania, Yugoslavia, and Italy.

About 5 1/2 tons of gold worth some \$70 million that was to be distributed is still held by the Bank of

England and Federal Reserve Bank in New York. It was frozen after Jewish groups insisted that privately owned gold taken from victims of the Nazis should be returned to survivors or families.

Germany has thus far paid some \$58 billion in reparations to victims of the Nazis, mostly Jews. However, victims from eastern European countries that were behind the Iron Curtain were unable to apply for restitution. Among them are an estimated 30,000 survivors of Nazi-run forced labor camps, for which Jewish groups are seeking compensation.

Earlier this year, American and British reports targeted Switzerland as the largest dealer in Nazi gold, handling \$400 million of the precious metal.

Switzerland, which is also sending a delegation to the London conference, has started payouts to needy Holocaust survivors in Latvia from a \$200 million fund set up by its banks and industry. East European Jews have been given priority as they are deemed the most destitute.

IDF junior officers make goodwill visit to US

By TOM TUGEND

LOS ANGELES — It's a long way from an IDF infantry platoon to the upscale community of Newport Beach in southern California, but Inbal Adar and Tzahi Levi are trying to bridge the geographical and cultural gap.

Both Adar, 20, and Levi, 22, are infantry lieutenants who were selected from among 20 candidates of similar rank for a three-week speaking tour. They have been meeting with high school and college students in seven American cities (including San Francisco, Chicago, Boston, New York, Miami, and Atlanta) under a little-

known program called Achva (Affinity).

Achva aims to create better understanding between young Americans and Israelis by bringing them face-to-face to explore their similarities and differences. The program is sponsored by the American Friends of the IDF and the academic affairs offices of the Israeli consulates in the US.

First stop for the pair, on their first trip to the States, was Los Angeles and a morning visit to Newport Harbor High School, where they met with two 10th grade classes enrolled in a special international relations course.

Levi saw "certain gaps in their

knowledge about Israel," as he politely put it, among the 16-year-old public school students; but also keen interest in Israeli issues of human rights, equality between genders, terrorism, and whether only Jews live in the country.

At the same time, the teenagers were naturally curious about the lifestyles of young Israelis, from clothing, cars, and dating to surfing, drug use, and musical tastes, noted Adar.

The basic difference between American and Israeli youngsters is that "every child in our country knows from day of birth that he or she will go into the army, and their parents live with the same knowl-

edge," Levi observed.

Classroom teacher Michaela Burns was enthusiastic about the visit of the officers, who appeared in uniform. Their presentation helped prepare her students for an upcoming Model United Nations meeting, where they will represent the State of Israel, Burns said.

"Our students were really impressed, you could see it in their faces," she observed. "I think they realized how much more serious life is in Israel and how lucky they are. Our individualistic kids were impressed by the willingness of young Israeli to go into the military," said Burns.

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N.Korea agrees to 4-nation talks

NEW YORK (AP) — New hope for peace in the troubled Korean peninsula came Friday with a major breakthrough in preliminary talks aimed at reducing tension in the world's last Cold War flash point.

North Korea, the communist half of a divided country that remains technically at war after 44 years, has agreed to attend a four-nation peace conference starting December 9 in Geneva.

Representatives of the United States, China, North Korea, and South Korea made the announcement Friday, at the third round of

preliminary negotiations held at Columbia University in New York.

The December meeting in Geneva will probably be brief, the first of many, a US official said, and the peace negotiations are expected to go on for at least a few years. The ultimate goal is to reunify the two Koreas.

A stumbling block in previous negotiations, held in August and September, had been North Korea's insistence that the agenda address the removal of 37,000 US troops in South Korea. US officials indicated that the North

Koreans agreed to drop their demand in return for assurances they would be able to raise the issue in Geneva.

S. Korea seeks massive IMF bailout, Page 6

"The language of the agenda is simple enough to assure that all parties are free to raise any issue," one US official said. "That has been the US position all along."

The joint statement said the Geneva conference would address the "establishment of a peace regime on the Korean peninsula and issues concerning tension reduction there." The peace conference is to replace the 1953 armistice that ended fighting in the Korean War. Although the armistice was a temporary measure, no peace treaty was ever signed.

In Washington, US President Bill Clinton praised the agreement.

"There is a lot of hard work ahead," Clinton said. "But this is an important first step and the

United States is prepared to be a full partner in helping the Korean people build a future of peace."

US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, in Vancouver for the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation summit, announced Friday she would direct the US side of the negotiations, and meet with foreign ministers from the other three countries.

"This is the beginning of a long road," Albright said. "However, success is in the interest of all parties, as it is in the interest of the region and the world as a whole."

INXS star Michael Hutchence found dead

By PHILIPPE NAUGHTON

SYDNEY (Reuters) — Australia's most successful rock singer, Michael Hutchence, was found dead in a Sydney hotel on yesterday.

Local media said the 37-year-old lead singer of INXS had hanged himself with his belt.

The death of Hutchence, who combined hard-driving rock with a hard-living rock star lifestyle, sent shock waves through the music industry. His lover, British television presenter Paula Yates, the mother of his young daughter, was said to be devastated after hearing the news at the couple's London home.

"What can I say? I've lost my loving son," Kel Hutchence, the singer's father, told the *Sun-Herald* newspaper.

Australian Prime Minister John Howard added: "He was, from the Australian and world rock scene, one of our most talented performers. It really is a most tragic event." Police would not confirm Hutchence's death, except to say that the body of a 37-year-old Australian man who had lived in England "for some time" had been found in a fifth-floor room at the exclusive Ritz Carlton hotel in the suburb of Double Bay.

Police also said a leather belt had been taken away for examination, but there were no suspicious circumstances.

They said a post-mortem would be held tomorrow, and it would be up to the coroner to disclose the dead man's identity.

The singer's apparent suicide took friends and acquaintances by surprise. With 15-month-old daughter Heavenly Hiranani Tiger Lily and Yates, a woman he called his "soul mate," Hutchence had seemed to be enjoying life as never before.

Australian television showed footage of Hutchence rehearsing with his band on Friday. A Ritz Carlton employee interviewed on television said Hutchence had appeared in good spirits on the night before his death as he dined



Michael Hutchence apparently hanged himself with his belt in a Sydney hotel, yesterday.

with his parents at the hotel restaurant.

"It really has shocked everyone," said Molly Meldrum, Australia's foremost music pundit and a friend of Hutchence.

Meldrum said he had seen the singer a few weeks ago and mentioned to him that he had never seen him so happy or relaxed.

"He said to me, 'I've never been more relaxed or happier any time

in my life,'" Meldrum said.

"I can't believe it," said singer Kylie Minogue, one of Hutchence's former girlfriends.

Police Insp. Christopher Hogg told reporters that police were called to the hotel at 12.30 p.m., half an hour after a man's body had been found by a hotel employee.

"Detectives have taken into possession a leather belt for scientific examination. It would appear

there are no suspicious circumstances," he said.

Initial media reports on Saturday suggested that Hutchence could have been the victim of a drug overdose, but police said only prescription medications had been found in his hotel room.

Hutchence's dark good looks and powerful stage presence — he had the exuberance of Mick Jagger combined with the brooding quality

of The Doors' Jim Morrison — had made him one of the world's most enduring pop stars.

After helping to create the modern rock sound with his such as "Suicide Blonde" and "New Sensation," Hutchence and INXS (pronounced In Excess) found themselves sidelined in recent years while younger bands seized the initiative. But the band had nevertheless sold around 20 million albums.

The cause of the malfunction was not immediately known. Spartan was supposed to observe for two days the sun's ionized outer atmosphere, known as the corona, and the solar wind, the charged particles hurtling from the sun.

Hard-liners face test in Bosnia Serb election

BANJA LUKA, Bosnia (Reuters) — Bosnian Serbs voted yesterday in parliamentary elections which Western governments hoped would break the dominance of hard-line nationalists loyal to indicted war criminal Radovan Karadzic.

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) mission, which is supervising the two-day elections, said voting began as scheduled in the country's Serb republic at some 1,500 polling stations.

OSCE spokesman Luke Zahner said initial reports indicated a solid voter turnout in Serb territory but no figures were available.

Turnout among Bosnians in the Muslim-Croat Federation, who were voting by absentee ballot or at special polling stations in the Serb entity, appeared to be lower than in municipal elections held two months ago.

"It's a little slow on the federation side," Zahner told Reuters.

Muslim and Croat nationalist parties were expected to obtain a portion of seats in the parliament but a low turnout in the federation could hand more seats to Serb hard-liners.

The elections went ahead without violence except for a minor explosion overnight at a polling center in Kopacki, outside Gorazde, in eastern Bosnia. The explosion caused no major damage to the polling center, which was set up for voters from the federation, Zahner said.

The NATO-led peacekeeping force, reinforced with an additional 1,000 troops, patrolled the region to ensure no serious violence erupted between supporters of Western-backed Bosnian Serb President Biljana Plavsic and her hard-line opponents.

"I expect our people to this time to vote for those who are able to provide them with a better stan-

dard of living and, of course, a better future," Plavsic told reporters after casting her ballot in her power base of Banja Luka in the northwest.

Plavsic dissolved parliament in July after breaking with fellow nationalists earlier this year, accusing her rivals of rampant corruption and autocratic rule.

The president and her supporters have argued for a more pragmatic stance towards the Western powers that the hard-liners have consistently defied since a peace agreement was reached two years ago.

The power struggle between Plavsic and hard-liners loyal to Karadzic — the wartime Bosnian Serb leader — has produced rival authorities ruling western and eastern halves of Serb territory.

The conflict has nearly turned violent more than once but Plavsic has managed to wrest control of part of the police force and the official television network with the help of NATO troops.

Hard-liners in the Serb Democratic Party (SDS) and their allies in the Radical Party are fighting to retain a majority in the 83-seat national assembly which rules the autonomous Serb territory.

The two parties obtained more than 40 percent of the vote in municipal elections held in September.

The US has led a Western campaign of support for Plavsic, describing her as a pragmatist willing to cooperate with peace-making efforts. Western governments have recently injected reconstruction aid into Banja Luka, donated equipment to television studios under her control and offered political advice to the president's party.

Western diplomats said they hoped Plavsic's newly formed party and opposition parties would score well enough to build a ruling coalition.

Astronauts lose solar observatory

By MARCIA DURIN

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (AP) — Space shuttle Columbia's astronauts struggled in vain to capture a sun-watching satellite after the craft malfunctioned within moments of its release.

NASA quickly lost any chance

of conducting solar observations with the satellite, now or later in the mission. The space agency still wanted the satellite back, however, for the trip home.

Mission Control told the astronauts Friday that they might have to perform a space walk tonight to grab the 1,350 kg. satellite with

their gloved hands.

The cause of the malfunction was not immediately known.

Spartan was supposed to observe for two days the sun's ionized outer atmosphere, known as the corona, and the solar wind, the charged particles hurtling from the sun.

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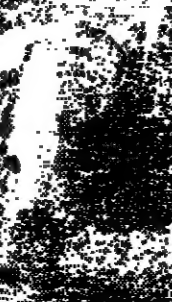
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South Korea seeks \$20b. IMF bailout

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korea's president apologized to the nation yesterday for taking a course of action once deemed unthinkable — asking the International Monetary Fund for a \$20 billion bailout of its foundering economy.

Headlines in morning newspapers trumpeted a "National Bankruptcy" and a "Humiliating International Trusteeship" and the South Korean stock market's key index plunged 20.64 points, as investors worried that the IMF loan would be coupled with strict controls that could bring more hard times.

The market closed its half day of trading with the Korean Stock Price Index below the psychologically important 500 level at 485.43, having shed about 20 percent of its value.

In a nationally televised speech, President Kim Young-sam spoke of hardships to come, apologized for the financial mess he will soon leave to a new administration and urged his people to tighten their belts and work to restore South Korea's economic health.

"I expect stern admonitions regarding what became of our economy that the world once envied," Kim said. "As the president, I feel deep regrets."

"It is time to tighten our belt again. The coming economic restructuring will involve bone-carving pain," Kim added. "But we must show the world our determination that we can overcome this crisis."

In announcing its decision late Friday night, Kim's government also requested an open line of credit in case \$20 billion is not enough. Many financial analysts say it could take three times that amount to stabilize Seoul's economy.

In Washington, IMF managing director Michel Camdessus said he would give South Korea "full support." The rescue effort will involve the international community as well as the IMF, he said, an indication assistance from individual nations also was being lined up.

South Korea's decision made official what many analysts have been saying for weeks — that the former Asian powerhouse's economic troubles are so serious an IMF bailout was inevitable.

But the government argued over the decision, changing its mind several times Friday, with the final decision coming at a late-night news conference.

Finance Minister Lim Chang-yul said an IMF delegation will come to Seoul early next week to negotiate the size and terms of the bailout package, and the money will start arriving in three or four weeks.

Just last week, the government called the idea of an IMF loan "unthinkable." For South Korea, asking the IMF for help — even at a time of crisis — is nothing less than humiliating. In return for loans, the IMF requires painful policy controls, which many Koreans see as tantamount to surrendering sovereignty.

South Korea boasts the world's 11th-largest economy — no small feat for a country left in ruins by World War II and the Korean War. But the economy has been spinning out of control for almost a month, the result of a series of major corporate bankruptcies that brought a loss of foreign confidence.

The crisis has been exacerbated by economic meltdowns elsewhere in Asia, particularly in Thailand and Indonesia, both of which are being rescued by the IMF.

Despite government appeals for calm and assurances from the IMF that South Korea's economic fundamentals were sound, the currency plummeted, share prices tumbled, and foreign investors scurried to withdraw their holdings and convert them into dollars.

Initially, the nation turned to the United States for help, but as with Thailand and Indonesia, Washington steered South Korea to the IMF. Then South Korea turned to Japan, which also gave it a cold shoulder.

Asking for help from Japan, its former colonial ruler and a chief trading rival, was almost as galling as going to the IMF.

"Leaving behind our glorious economic development, our country must suffer the humiliation of going bankrupt," MBC-TV commented in its prime time evening news on Friday. Another network, SBS-TV, said: "If we use the medicine wisely, Korea Inc. will overcome this humiliation and become an even stronger economy."



Bobbi McCaughey, the septuplets' mother, composes herself at a hospital news conference yesterday.

Septuplet taken off respirator

News agencies

DES MOINES — A weary Bobbi McCaughey cradled one of her septuplets for the first time and told the world she pressed on with her risky pregnancy because "they were my children and I wanted them."

"I know that it's extraordinary ... to have this many babies and go this far, but it's something I just did," she told KCCI-TV on Friday.

The couple's fertility doctor had given the McCaugheys the option of aborting some of the fetuses to give the others a better chance at survival. But "we just told her right from the beginning it's not an option for us," McCaughey said.

Later, at a packed hospital news conference, the mother of the only living septuplets in the world was overcome by emotion when she spoke of holding one of her newborns for the first time.

Kenneth Robert — nicknamed "Hercules" by doctors because he was lowest in the womb and held the six others up — was the strongest of the brood and the biggest at 1.46 kilograms. He was upgraded from serious to fair condition and removed from a ventilator after he began breathing on his own.

"I never thought they would

come off the ventilators so soon," she said as her husband, Kenny, held her hand. "It was just incredible. I can't wait until I can hold all of them."

"If we have the arms," her husband added with a wide grin.

The three other boys and three girls remained in serious condition Friday and were all on ventilators, two days after they were delivered by Caesarean section. Doctors expect them all to be breathing on their own within three days.

The 29-year-old mother was also weary from the ordeal. After 21 weeks of bed rest and more than a month in the hospital, she appeared in public for the first time, walking gingerly across the stage of the hospital auditorium in a blue quilted robe, with her husband holding her hand and a nurse carrying her IV bag.

McCaughey paused as photographers took pictures, smiling briefly before becoming choked with emotion, dabbing her eyes with a tissue.

As they sat and she began to make a statement, she said softly to her husband, "I can't." She answered only a few questions before walking off stage.

"She does appreciate the love and the care and concern and the fact that we want to tell the

world what has happened here in this little old Iowa where the tall corn grows, you know, and the babies do, too," said Kenny McCaughey. "It's all a blessing from God."

The couple faces an enormous financial burden, but it may be eased considerably by the generosity of strangers and the potential profits from selling their amazing story.

After insisting earlier this week that he had no intention of selling interviews or pictures to tabloid newspapers or television shows, Kenny said on Friday he and his advisers were looking over such offers.

"There's been a lot of offers," he said. "Any money from things like that would go to all my kids, not necessarily us."

The Des Moines Register newspaper reported that offers to the McCaugheys have ranged from \$20,000 to "whatever it takes to buy the story."

Kenny McCaughey is a billing clerk at a local car dealership. Bobbi has worked as a seamstress.

"My past experiences, whether they be at work or at school ... have taught me to be more efficient in everything I do, and to get a lot of work done in the least amount of time I can," Kenny said.

"Both Bobbi and I have been

... real students of efficiency and trying to do a lot of things in a very small amount of time. Along with that too, is pinching pennies."

For now, some of the financial strain has been lifted since the septuplets were born by a cascade of gifts and promises.

Several Iowa firms have pledged to build a large house for free for the McCaugheys in their hometown of Carlisle to replace their present small home. Carlisle's mayor is working on getting land donated for the house.

Kenny's employer gave him a new 15-passenger Chevrolet van.

Companies have promised the McCaugheys free diapers, apple sauce, cable television and a TV and VCR, family photo, heat and hot water, major appliances, nursery furniture and \$100-worth of groceries each week for a year.

St. Ambrose University, a Roman Catholic college in Davenport, Iowa, is offering the devoutly Baptist McCaugheys free college for the septuplets, in recognition of their choice not to selectively abort any of the babies.

Two accounts have been set up at separate banks in Carlisle to accept cash donations to the family.

'Kennedy papers' are forgeries — CBS

NEW YORK (Reuters) — The entire collection of papers allegedly linking President John Kennedy to everything from the Mafia to hush money paid to Marilyn Monroe is fake, according to an expert hired by CBS News's 60 Minutes.

The papers, which Lex Cusack said he discovered among the files of his late father, lawyer Lawrence Cusack, include more than 300 documents allegedly revealing among other things that Kennedy had an affair with Monroe and planned to buy the movie star's silence for \$600,000, and that his family had an illicit relationship with Mafia boss Sam Giancana.

Cusack sold the papers for some \$6 million. CBS reports in tonight's edition 60 Minutes. ABC, which had been preparing a two-hour documentary based on the collection, hired forensic experts to validate seven typewritten documents and was told they were forged. It canceled the show.

Similarly, Seymour Hersh had devoted a chapter in his just-published book *The Dark Side of Camelot* to the papers, but removed it amid a barrage of media reports branding the collection a fake.

Cusack then offered CBS access



John F. Kennedy

to all of the original papers, since no one had examined more than a few of some 700 pages of handwritten documents. The network hired Dr. Duane Dillon, who it said was one of the top document and handwriting experts in the country and was recommended by the FBI, to review the entire collection.

Dillon concluded that the handwriting in the papers "is not the writing of President Kennedy," and said all the documents were forgeries.

Yamaichi mulls shutdown

TOKYO (Reuters) — Yamaichi Securities Co Ltd, one of Japan's top brokerages, said yesterday it may shut its doors after 100 years in business, as it faces a short-term credit crunch, shrinking business, and high-profile scandals.

Options for the beleaguered Yamaichi narrowed considerably after main creditor Fuji Bank Ltd said it was not in a position to take responsibility for rescuing the "Big Four" brokerage.

Yamaichi said in a statement that it would make its final decision public tomorrow, a national holiday in Japan.

Should Yamaichi go under, it would be Japan's biggest business failure in the post-war era and its third major financial-sector failure this month, joining second-tier brokerage Sanyo Securities Co Ltd Ltd and 10th-ranking commercial bank Hokkaido Tokai Bank Ltd.

In emergency news conferences yesterday morning, Japanese monetary authorities made assurances that the assets of Yamaichi's customers would be protected and that the brokers' woes would not be allowed to disrupt the financial system.

Woman tells of affair with J.D. Salinger

By CHARLES LAURENCE

NEW YORK — The wall of privacy surrounding the American novelist J. D. Salinger, who wrote *The Catcher in the Rye*, is to be breached with the publication of a memoir by a writer who lived with him and loved him for nine months 25 years ago.

Joyce Maynard, a novelist and journalist, was 18 when she went

to visit the already celebrated Salinger at his mountain-top retreat in Cornish, New Hampshire, in the summer of 1972. He was then 53. She stayed until the following spring.

"He was the first man I ever loved. I viewed him as my mentor and teacher and the person I trusted most in the world," Maynard told the *New York Times*.

Her decision to write a memoir, due to be published by Picador

USA in the autumn of 1999, is considered certain to stir a new privacy row in literary circles, and possibly in the courts.

Maynard, 44, a divorced mother of three living near San Francisco, confirmed that she had kept about 30 letters from Salinger.

Their relationship began with a letter from him which she said was "deeply thoughtful, very moving." It had arrived after the publication in the *New Yorker* magazine of

"An 18-year-old Looks Back on Life," the first of a series of personal stories for which she has become known.

The use of letters without permission led to a literary cause celebre in the 1980s and early '90s when Salinger sued his biographer, Ian Hamilton, in a case that went all the way to the Supreme Court. The judges ruled in favor of Salinger's privacy.

(Daily Telegraph)

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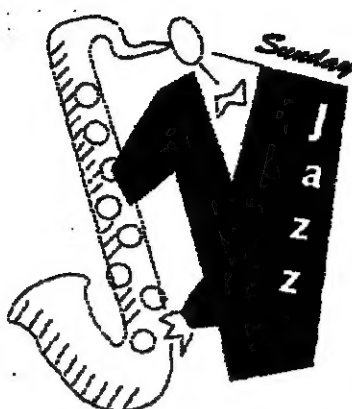
مكتبة القدس

A black tribute
The Man
No Name



A salute to Par...

A black-tie tribute to 'The Man with No Name'



By David Isaacson

A disc which salutes the music of Clint Eastwood movies should be applauded, if not in the politely enthusiastic way of wealthy patrons at gala evenings such as this all-star Carnegie Hall tribute.

Despite his popular image as the anonymous hero of Sergio Leone's spaghetti Westerns and as the no-nonsense cop Dirty Harry, Eastwood's is a rich, diverse oeuvre which includes a number of

EASTWOOD AFTER HOURS
LIVE AT CARNEGIE HALL
Carnegie Hall Jazz Band and guests
(Red Arts)

UNDERGROUND
Courtney Pine
(Hellcon)

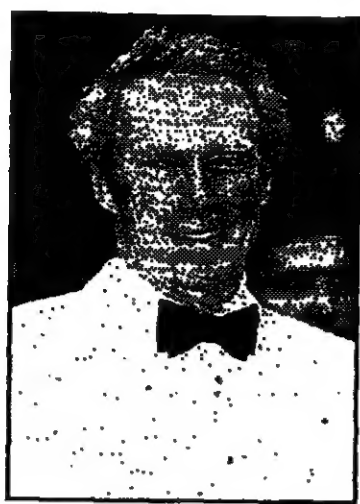
films featuring music as a central player. The first film he directed, *Play Misty For Me* (1971), about a violently psychotic woman's obsession, gave him the opportunity to portray a DJ spinning records by the likes of Cannonball Adderley, Johnny Otis and Erroll Garner.

The two versions on *Eastwood After Hours* of Erroll Garner's ballad, "Misty," are the opening piano duet and then a fine, wild orchestral jam as part of the Carnegie Hall Jazz Band's "Eastwood: After Hours (Suite)."

In 1981, Eastwood cast himself as a consumptive country singer in the underrated *Honkytonk Man*. But on this disc, the version of that film's "San Antonio Rose" sounds as incongruous as the melody of "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly" and "Rawhide." These tracks might have been fun at the gig, or concert rather, but you wouldn't want to hear them again and again.

The Bridges of Madison County - again directed by and starring Eastwood, in 1995 - has one of the classic sound tracks of recent years, but this rendition of "I See Your Face Before Me" hardly does justice to that romantic, melancholy scene when our man slows down around the kitchen with Meryl Streep.

The best moments of this double disc are the covers from *Bird* (1988). Eastwood's evocative, loving biopic of the great Charlie Parker, tenor saxophonist James Carter leads a sumptuous orchestral "Laura" with strings arranged by Lemmy Niehaus. Alto saxophonist James Moody shows how Charlie Parker should be played on "Parker's Mood," and Joshua



Music is germane to a number of Clint Eastwood movies. (File photo)

Redman, on "These Foolish Things," demonstrates why he is regarded as one of the leading saxophonists today.

Eastwood also executive-produced a documentary on Thelonious Monk - the fast-rising Monk Jr. plays drums on a couple of tracks on this disc - but these cuts of "Straight No Chaser" and "Round Midnight" are somewhat spoiled by the second piano, and Gary LeMell's strained vocal on the latter takes us into Tony Bennett territory.

THE number of British jazz virtuosi remains - guitarist John McLaughlin notwithstanding - disappointing. (It's not as if the UK hasn't contributed to the worlds of pop, rock and, to a lesser extent, movies.)

An exception is saxophonist Courtney Pine. In the past 10 years, he has been one of the most interesting and exciting voices on the scene.

The billing "experimental," whether applied to literature, movies or music, might be taken as a warning sign: "Chaos ahead!" And one might fear the worst when the experiment involves the use of computer loops, DJ turntables and other streetwise electronic paraphernalia, to play against rap, hip-hop, dance, trance and techno beats. But Pine isn't just breaking new ground; he's building beautiful structures on it.

The opening track, a short cut-and-splice collage of the rest of the disc, is undeniably weird but, for the most part, this daring, cutting-edge disc is hot and powerful. The "straightest" track is a cover of Aretha Franklin's 1960s passive protest anthem, "Tryin' Times." The lyrics are quite irrelevant today - despite Pine's assertion to the contrary on the liner notes - but soul singer Jhelisa's treatment is sublime.

Pine plays a range of instruments, from bass clarinet to flute and soprano sax, with great integrity, and his band, including guests Nicholas Payton and Mark Whitfield, is excellent. His arrangements acknowledge numerous influences - handily listed by Pine on the liner notes - and as for his production, it brings the dance floor to your living room, so play it loud.

A salute to Partos

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

In 1954, composer Odeon Partos was the first musician to ever receive the Israel State Prize. The Hungarian-born composer immigrated to Israel at the request of Bronislaw Huberman in 1938 as an accomplished violinist. After changing instruments upon his arrival, he became the principal violist of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra for 18 fruitful years. Partos, who would have celebrated his 90th birthday this year, died 13 years ago, but he left behind him an impressive canon of compositions, as well as numerous students and even more friends, all of whom will celebrate his anniversary in a special event this Friday in Jerusalem.

As part of its biweekly concert series with young musicians, the Jerusalem Music Center presents a special Partos program performed by members of the Center's Young Musicians Division, which has been operating for over 17 years, enabling young talented musicians to hone their craft with the best teachers around.

Usually these concerts are a showcase of the musical talents of the future but this time around, the concert will be a homage to a great musician of the past whose music is still very much part of our present.

Partos's music is performed quite regularly by orchestras and

musicians all over the country, be it his earliest Israeli folk-oriented works or the later works which are much more abstract yet always evocative and written from the soul.

In this concert, the young musicians of the JMC will perform two works by Partos - *Maqamat* and *Rondo* - as well as two works by composers who were very much influenced by Partos and wrote works dedicated to him.

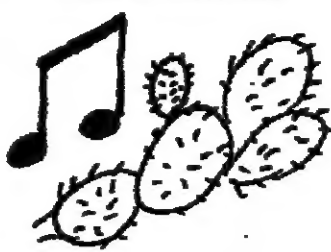
Ze'ev Steinberg, who was also a member of the IPO viola section for many years and who knew Partos very well as a friend and a teacher, is still an active musician and composer who dedicated his *Little String Quartet* to his friend. Yinsam Leef, one of the most talented and intriguing composers of the newer generation, wrote *Triptych* in memory of Partos.

In a period in which most performed Israeli music is by living composers, and usually the younger ones, the works of three composers who are no longer alive still enjoy a regular place in the repertoire: Mordechai Seter, Paul Ben-Haim and Odeon Partos, the latter the most difficult composer to listen to, yet in many ways the most rewarding.

The Jerusalem Music Center celebrates the 90th anniversary of the birth of Odeon Partos with a special concert this Friday (noon).

Nurit Galron hides the seams

Sabra Sounds



By Emily Hauser

Nurit Galron is a longtime favorite on the local pop scene, and with good reason. Her voice is beautiful, and she has consistently chosen material which touches and moves her audience, while soothing their frazzled nerves. She's sort of a female Barry Manilow, which is code for the fact that Galron has never been one of my favorites. Like Manilow, she does beautiful work that is so smooth as to be seamless. I like the occasional seam, the occasional bit of musical and emotional tension.

That aside, this collection is a very good representation of some

OSEF ('COLLECTION')
Nurit Galron
(NMC)

ZINO FEATURING HUMAN BEATBOX
Human BeatBox
(BNE)
*** 1/2

of Galron's best-loved work. Old favorites such as "Ata Harei Yode'a" ("You Know") and "Ki Ha'adam Bz Ha'sadeh" ("Because Man Is a Tree in the Field") are here, as are nicely reworked, 1997 versions of "Nig'li Ahat Raka" ("One Gentle Touch") and "Kulanu Z'kukim Le'hessed" ("We All Need Kindness").

I was happy to find "Am Po Hazer Li" ("Here You Are, Missing"), in which a hint of painful bewilderment can be heard

in Galron's voice. The slightly ironic "Simpatia" ("Sympathy") - a whimsical little song about people who continue to live in and love less-than-lovely Tel Aviv - was included, but for some reason, the delightfully luscious "Ani Eshgaga" ("I'll Go Crazy") was not.

For Galron fans who don't own any of her albums, *Osef* is an excellent place to start.

LISTENING to the wide range of songs on *Zino featuring Human BeatBox*, you may be hard-pressed to believe that all of the noises on the disc - every chirp, thump and trill - are man-made. Every single one.

Don't expect Bobby McFerrin redux, though. While truly a cappella, this album owes as much to modern recording technology as it does to the human voice, which is why you may find yourself wondering just how the gentlemen in Human BeatBox got their throats to do that stuff.

In a glorious case of humanity-meets-technology, brothers Boaz, Enon and Tamir Ben-David record their own voices and then run the recordings through sequencers and samplers, playing with pitch and creating loops, thus producing rap, jungle, trance and other electronic-by-definition music, as well as pop and rock.

As the title implies, it was not created by Human BeatBox alone. Singer and music industry figure Haim Zinowitch (a.k.a. Zino) saw the Ben-David brothers perform on TV a couple of years ago and decided to take them under his wing, becoming Human BeatBox's manager and producer, and eventually writing and helping perform several songs on the resulting CD.

The final product is a great mishmash of styles and even languages - for example, tracks 4 through 7 are, respectively, a trip-hop tune in French, a cover version of Bob Dylan's "Lay, Lady, Lay," a cover of Ariel Zilber's very mellow "Ve'ech She'lo" ("However"), and an original, English-language trance

track, "The Moscito Trans" (sic). And somehow, astonishingly, it all works. If you like a good beat, this is a truly fresh take on a whole bunch of styles. Much more than a novelty record, you'll find yourself listening to *Zino featuring Human BeatBox* well after the novelty's worn off.

I do have one important suggestion for Human BeatBox, however: If anyone involved in this project decides to take this album abroad,

an English-language songwriter must go over the lyrics and liner notes. When Zinowitch sings, "What's a stain if it can't go off," on "Hide," one can only assume he means, "What's a stain if you can't get it off." Likewise, one can only cringe when reading the

lyrics to "I'm the 1." "And I walked, for days I walked, until he reviled to me in smoke (sic)." A project this good, this well-produced, deserves better.

DID YOU KNOW?
Q: Haim Zinowitch recorded

what other decidedly 'eccentric' CD in recent years?

A: Haim Zinowitch *Ve'haproyect Ha'gibberish* ("Haim Zinowitch and the Gibberish Project"), an album of songs written entirely in - you guessed it - gibberish.

Record buff rocks the market

By CHARLES SOLOMON

A new record store promises to supply virtually any pop disc produced anywhere, as long as it is still in print.

That's one heck of a commitment to make, but Ilan Ben-Shahar, co-owner of the store bearing his name, is confident he can deliver the goods. The store, at 154 Rehov Ibn Gvirol in Tel Aviv, has met 80-90 percent of all the orders it's gotten, no matter how old or obscure the disc may be or where it was released.

The story of how the store came into being goes back to the Sixties when Ben-Shahar was growing up in Ashkelon.

He had developed an interest in pop music at an early age and started collecting pop singles and albums. He had an advantage over other kids on the block: he had two brothers living in the US who supplied him with a regular flow of all the hottest releases.

The hobby slowly evolved into a profession, and by 1970 Ben-Shahar was operating the first mobile discotheque in Israel. He slowly built a name for himself and by the end of the decade was performing in front of huge crowds at Tel Aviv's annual City of Youth fair, at the fairgrounds. He had become the disco king of Israel.

He next brought his talents to local record companies and began putting together hit compilations for them.

These compilations, which replaced the small singles market in Israel, proved to be very popular; at times, he had four compilations, each released by a different label, competing with one another in the charts.

When Channel 2 began its test broadcasts in 1989, Ben-Shahar was there three times a week, hosting a pop-video program. The catch was that he was using clips from his personal collection, which number a staggering 27,000 clips; the oldest were from the early 1950s. With 300 shows' worth of footage from which to choose, Ben-Shahar's shelves were well-stocked.

While he was running his mobile disco, he built up a worldwide network of contacts who supplied him with rare and hard-to-find records.

He reciprocated by supplying his overseas contacts with special-edition issues or compilations, which were only available for the local market.

HE IS now putting all those contacts to good use, obtaining



Disc king Ilan Ben-Shahar (inset) and his gold mine of a shop.

albums that are virtually impossible to find here. Surprisingly, Japan is one of his main sources of rare issues, and people are willing to pay almost anything to obtain a much-loved album release.

While most of the big record stores in Israel - like Tower or The Disc Center in Tel Aviv - stock an abundance of older, back-catalog releases, the scope and depth of Ben-Shahar's stock is unparalleled. He and his partner, Shabi Yerushalmi, pride themselves on stocking original recordings by the original artists from as long ago as the early 1950s.

While browsing, one can't help but admire the duo for coming up with some real gems, like George Harrison's solo masterpiece, *All Things Must Pass*, until now unavailable here; a greatest hits package of Mary Hopkins; obscure albums by the Animals and other 1960s "British Invasion" groups; and a rare

release by Mr. Bloo. (Remember the hit, "Groovin' with Mr. Bloo"?)

Setting up the store was clearly a work of love and pride. The result is a virtual gold mine. Albums that one rarely sees here, or abroad for that matter, are all in Tel Aviv.

Ben-Shahar's next project, starting January 1, will be a delivery service, a sort of "Disco To Go." He promises to supply anyone living in the Dan region with an album within 30 minutes of ordering, and anywhere in the country within 24 hours.

He will also be opening a site on the Internet, where you will be able to order albums from wherever you are.

His "Big Plan," as he calls it, is to open a center for popular music where fans can get any recording of or any information about popular music they want, all under one roof. The way things are going, his dream might one day come true.

Habimah's new group of seven

By HELEN KAYE

THE creative countdown has started at Habimah with seven projects completed or starting rehearsals this week and next. *Veronica's Room*, a thriller by US playwright Ira Levin, is currently playing at Habimartel within the Actors Theater framework.

Next is Esteban Gouffier's farce *Lallo*. The story of how the media can hype even a loser, it won a prize at this year's Acre Festival. It starts shortly in the Carpentier club theater.

Director and psychodrama therapist Hanan Suir is doing a workshop prior to starting rehearsals in January for a revival of *The Dybbuk*, which will be presented at the Israel Festival next May.

And starting this week, the following plays go into rehearsal for openings starting in January and going right through into summer:

Underpants, the first of the quartet of plays by German anti-fascist Carl Sternheim, translated by and starring Doron Tavori. The entire quartet will play in rotation in July 1998. *Bustan Sfaradi*, by ex-president Yitzhak Navon, opens January 8. The musical director is Yehudit Ravitz. The original production premiered in 1971 and ran for 400 performances.

Sonya Muskat, a drama by Savoyon Liebrecht about two elderly sisters during the Holocaust, opens January 31.

The Jewish Wars, adapted for his ensemble by Young Habimah artistic director Ilan Ronen from Josephus's great history.

The first part is due in March; the second will premiere during the summer.

If all of this looks very ambitious, it's meant to. General manager Ya'acov Agmon likes big, and 1998 is Habimah's 80th birthday and Israel's Jubilee.

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THIS LAST WEEKS ON	WEEKS	CHARTS	ARTIST	TITLE
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#2	1	26	EVAL GOLAN	WITHOUT YOU
#3	3	16	EVYATAR BANAI	EVYATAR BANAI
#4	6	13	SHABAK SAMECH	BATIFA SHEI MAMTAK
#5	10	12	BACKSTREET BOYS	BACKSTREET'S BACK
#6	8	15	ARIK EINHORN	LE'AN PARHU...
#7	14	39	YEHUDA POLIKER	LIVE
#8	7	19	RAMI KLEINSTEIN	KOL MA SHETITZI
#9	11	2	VIA	600% PURE DANCE
#10	4	7	SHLOMO ARTZI	LIVE '97
#11	12	5	THE VERVE	URBAN HYMNS
#12	16	1	VIA	HITMAN 8
#13	19	3	FINLEY QUAYE	MAVERICK A-STRIKE
#14	15	1	MATTI CASPI	LIVE
#15	5	6	ROLLING STONES	BRIDGES OF BABYLON

Tower Records' top-selling albums for last week

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The appeasing of Saddam

The recent so-called "Iraq crisis" to which the world has been subjected has acquired the aura of a massive confidence trick. During his recent visit to Israel, former US secretary of state Henry Kissinger predicted that Russia is so intent on elbowing its way back into Middle East diplomacy that it would follow short-term policies which it would later regret, just to get one up on the United States. Its intervention with Saddam has proved Kissinger's analysis spot on. The alarm registered in the West over the "deal" is neither envy nor sour grapes – it is genuine concern that the whole crisis might have been concocted by Iraq and Russia. The glee with which Moscow and Baghdad hailed their "victory" is highly suspicious, and about as reassuring as the historic "peace in our time" fiasco of Munich. The official Iraqi press called it "a great victory in our latest battle with the world oppressors in America" – a statement which at least has the merit of honesty in defining the confrontation as the latest, but not the last, attempt by Saddam Hussein to continue the 1991 Gulf War indefinitely. The free Russian media were less triumphalist, warning that the deal could turn nasty – except for one newspaper that gushed: "Moscow acted as a world power averting what seemed an inevitable war in the Gulf." Nonetheless, Russia's politicians are clearly basking in the glory of what they are selling as a diplomatic coup.

The story is simple. Saddam expelled six American inspectors 10 days ago, accusing them of spying. The United Nations pulled out the entire team. After goading Washington for a week, Iraq and Russia concocted an alleged deal to end the standoff. On Friday the 80 inspectors flew back to Iraq to resume their monitoring of Saddam's weapons programs.

The unseen story is not so simple. The crisis was started by Saddam when the inspectors apparently came too close to nailing his nerve gas and biological agents technology. The departure of the inspectors gave his goons a clear week to again destroy, or more likely move, the incriminating evidence to an unknown or secured site. He has done it before – so this story is not new. But this time, as well as thumbing his nose at Washington, Saddam managed to dupe the over-eager Russians. Moscow denies reports of a secret deal with Saddam by which it would start to fight for the UN Security Council to start lifting sanctions, but even without a secret protocol, the deal remains highly suspect.

The United States signaled some skepticism over Saddam's climbdown by sending another warship, the aircraft carrier *George Washington*, to the Gulf. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright made it clear she was not taken in by Russian maneuvering. Asked if Russia could influence the United States in getting sanctions lifted, she snapped "the quick answer is no!" That said, the

United States cannot crawl out from under its own colossal blundering in this confrontation with Saddam.

Saddam's new promise to comply fully and unconditionally with UN resolutions on the arms inspections is about as credible as his claim that he never invaded Kuwait. The promise, conveyed by Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz, made grim reality the old joke about diplomacy being the act of lying for one's country. But the last great superpower has allowed itself to be double-bluffed: Saddam has led Washington by the nose, and allowed Russia and France to lend a finger to the nostril.

Even if the Russian diplomatic ploy does prove fake, the glib Arab states, longing for the leverage of the old days of playing one side against the other, have swallowed the hook and line of Russia being back with a bang in Middle East politics. In their envious and hypocritical hatred of Western power, the Arab states are also buying the story of Saddam as a force not only to be reckoned with, but admired, as the ever-sycophantic Palestinians prove once again.

As for those American officials who continue to spout the party line that Saddam gained nothing – do they think the rest of the world has lost its critical faculties? For once, the much maligned media are in the vanguard of fighting the lies of the politicians and diplomats – and there is every sign that public opinion in Europe, the United States, and even Russia is right with the editorial and opinion writers and commentators on this one.

The fact is simple – Saddam Hussein has played the United Nations for a fool while hiding his lethal toys, and everyone knows it, even those who are denying it. In so doing he has undermined UN authority, and as an extra bonus he has undermined American credibility. While most comparisons of modern events with those of Europe's fascist era are facile, there are a couple of parallels worth pondering. Hitler and Mussolini between them: emulated and destroyed the League of Nations, made the prime minister of the respected British Empire look like a weak and bumbling fool, and ultimately made the world a more dangerous place.

It's time for a loud wake-up call. This is Saddam Hussein we are dealing with. This is the Saddam that gassed 3,000 of his own people to death in Halabja town, the Saddam that invaded Iran, rained missiles on Tehran, then invaded Kuwait, and rained Scud missiles on Riyadh and Tel Aviv. Iraq and Russia between them have just made the world a more dangerous place. They have made the United Nations look like their straight man in a sick stand-up act. They have made the world's policeman – the United States – look just a bit more like a bumbling small-town cop. Wake up, everyone; this is Saddam, and this is appeasement.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

JEWISH LIFESTYLE

Sir, – Rabbi Stewart Weiss says he is interested in Jewish outreach. "Matter of appearance," (November 13). To whom does he reach out? Certainly not to Jews like me.

He wants a Jewish lifestyle. Now what then is a Jewish lifestyle? I am not a synagogue-goer. We came on aliyah six years ago. In America my wife liked to go to synagogue two or three times a month. So it is here too, and sometimes I accompany her. To a Conservative synagogue. She liked to be active in some of the synagogue committees. And I attend on most of the holidays and festivals.

Our children learned the basics of Jewish tradition, and will probably follow our lifestyle. On Shabbat, we use electricity, watch television and use our car.

We support the present struggle of the Reform and Conservative rabbis to gain equality in our

Jewish state. They do not live "half a world away," as Weiss states. Weiss says that their struggle is for "prestige, honor and appearances." Some of us have been using these same words for Orthodox rabbis.

What the liberal rabbis want is to bring many people into the Jewish fold. We have a huge number of people from Russia who are not Jewish in Orthodox eyes. For some things they are Jewish: to contribute their talents here, to vote for Jewish parties, to fight and die in our Jewish army. But to marry other Jews and to be buried in a Jewish cemetery they are not Jews. Why? Because their mothers are not Jewish.

If their mothers would convert they would be Jewish. But the Orthodox want them to take on a "Jewish lifestyle" – to promise to practice all the commandments, and above all, to send their children to Orthodox schools and have them

become strangers to them.

Rabbi Weiss should allow a different kind of rabbi also to "reach out."

ROBERT FEINGOLD
Tel Aviv.

UNDEMOCRATIC POWER

Sir, – Jonathan Rosenblum makes a reasonable argument against the apparent unchecked power of the Supreme Court to reverse decisions made by the representatives of a democratically elected legislature ("Courts run amok," November 14). I would happily take such an argument seriously were he to express a consistent argument against the unchecked undemocratic power of the rabbinical courts in our country.

NEIL B. HARRIS
Jerusalem.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

60 years ago: On November 23, 1937, *The Palestine Post* reported that 2,000 delegates from all over the world attended a Zionist Palestine Conference in Poland. A prediction that within six years Germany would once again have colonial possessions was made by Hitler at Augsburg.

Military patrols conducted extensive searches in the Jerusalem District. Over half a dozen Arabs were arrested. Enthusiastic reports in the British press followed the Habimah performance of *The Dybbuk* in London.

50 years ago: On November 23, 1947, *The Palestine Post* reported from Lake Success that after voting on a large succession on a long list of matters, the UN General Assembly decided, before winding up, to stand by until the

Palestine Ad Hoc Committee delivered its report. The US asked the Assembly to approve the prepared Partition Plan.

A Jewish girl and five men were arrested in Jerusalem and Jaffa after arms and ammunition were found in their possession. A number of Jews were assaulted by British soldiers checking identity cards and curfew movement permits and searching for arms in Jerusalem.

British civilians living in Haifa's Security Zone have been warned not to visit the Hadar Hacamel quarter without a special permit.

A "bomb factory" in Cairo, designed to "help extend Jewish terrorism to the heart of the Arab world" was raided by Egyptian police. A young Jew, described as "Zionist," was arrested.

25 years ago: On November 23,

1972, *The Jerusalem Post* reported that Defense Minister Moshe Dayan said that he did not anticipate absolute quiet on the Syrian border after Israel shot down six Syrian jets and had destroyed 15 Syrian T-54 and T-55 tanks a day earlier. Some 20 Syrian soldiers were killed and many wounded. Israel suffered one killed and two wounded.

The Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. David Elazar visited Kibbutz Merom Hagolan which was badly damaged by Syrian artillery.

Syria continued to call upon Arab governments to rally to its aid in "repelling Israel's aggression and aiming strong blows on this enemy."

MK Gideon Hausner said that he was determined to press for a vote on his Civil Marriage Bill in the current Knesset session.

Alexander Zvielli

OPINION



A post-Zionist society

DAVID NEWMAN

This week saw the start of a series of university conferences and seminars dedicated to the country's 50th year. Two very contrasting seminars took place at Ben-Gurion University.

The first of these was a two-day conference dedicated to the role of Israel's founder/leader, David Ben-Gurion, during the formative years of statehood. The second was the first lecture in a year-long seminar series dedicated to an examination of "Identity and Citizenship in Contemporary Israel."

The two events took place during the same week, around the same theme – 50 years of statehood – but were vastly different in both their content and direction. While the first was an examination of the past, the second is an analysis of where we, as a society, are headed during the next 50 years.

Dealing with the issue of identity and citizenship is neither easy nor comfortable here and now. We are a heterogeneous society, within which two national groups – Jewish and Arab-Palestinian – and two distinct Jewish cultures – secular and religious – reside side by side. Ashkenazi and Sephardi Jews remain strongly divided, socio-economic gaps have grown, while the recent influx of over 400,000 foreign workers, many of them with families, has created a new underclass which will provide the core of new ethnic communities over the next 10 to 20 years.

The multi-identities of each of these groups is different. Some see themselves first and foremost as Israelis, while others define themselves primarily as Jews. Some see Zionism as an important component of their personal identity, while a growing number of Israelis define themselves as post-Zionist (secular Left), anti-Zionist (Arab-Palestinian, some haredim), neo-Zionist (the religious nationalists and settler movement), or simply citizens.

At least 30 percent of the population is not Jewish (Arab-Palestinians, a large percentage of recent immigrants, foreign work-

ers) and clearly does not, and cannot be expected to, identify with the national ethos of Zionism as the supreme state-building ideology.

The emerging post-Zionist thesis is to see Israel not as an exclusively Jewish state, but as a state for all its citizens, whatever their cultural background or religious affiliation. For many on the politi-

The post-Zionist thesis argues that the state should be redefined as a state for all its citizens

cal Left, universal values of human rights and equality are more important than a narrow ideological identity as determined by the state and its institutions.

An even greater number on the religious Right see their own divinely inspired values and identity as being of far greater importance than any form of democratic ideal as manifested in the modern state.

In the early years of statehood, there is no way that Ben-Gurion could have foreseen the heterogeneous society that Israel would become. At the time, it was believed that given two or three generations of education and socialization, the vast majority of Israelis would adopt similar values and identify with the single national ethos of Zionism.

But instead of recognizing contemporary realities for what they are, the state continues to believe that the creation of some form of single, homogeneous society is still possible. This although the government itself includes many members who themselves do not identify with this single, socially constructed, national identity.

EXAMINING the rights of citizenship in this country, for Jews and Arabs, for religious and secu-

lar, for Ashkenazim and Sephardim, as well as for foreign residents, is of far greater significance than once again delving into the past. The past is important, but only inasmuch as we can learn from the mistakes and not repeat them.

Economically, socially, and culturally, Israel is a completely different country than that which was established in 1948.

It is still defined as a Jewish state, but Judaism has become much more polarized and means different things to different people. The country is still a democracy, but one in which some groups have greater rights and access to power than do others.

The one common feature is that we are, or should be, equal citizens of a state in which neither the state nor any other group attempts to impose its own values, lifestyle, or national ethos on others.

For many, just the mention of the term post-Zionism turns them blue in the face. For many, it is still not part of the legitimate public discourse or agenda. It is mistakenly seen as being anti-ideological, detrimental to the state.

But if we want to minimize intra-societal conflict over the next 50 years, there is a need for the state to redefine itself in terms of who exactly is a citizen and what rights does he/she possess regardless of his/her ethnic, religious, or cultural preferences.

A Jewish democracy, if there is such a thing, would not be one that imposes Judaism, but one that recognizes fully the rights of ethnic minorities, the economic underclass and, most importantly, the right to be different but still equal.

This process of redefinition will come about by openly examining the problems facing the contemporary state, not by delving, once again, into the life and times of David Ben-Gurion.

The writer is professor of political geography and director of the Humphrey Institute for Social Research at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.

Limits on laws

ALAN DERSHOWITZ

Finally, someone is talking sense about Megan's Law. The Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts has imposed limitations on Megan's Law which strike an appropriate balance between the right of the public to know about sexual predators in their community and the right of a convicted sex offender to receive some semblance of due process before his prior sex act requires him to register as a dangerous sexual predator.

Megan's Law was enacted in response to a horrible crime against a young girl that captured the imagination of the American public. As is typical of legislation stimulated by emotional cases, the laws enacted in many states are far too broad and over-inclusive. For example, in several states, Megan's Law is applicable to adult homosexuals who engage in consensual sex with other adult homosexuals.

In the recent Massachusetts case, a married man with children and grandchildren went to a wooded area known to be a location for consensual adult homosexual encounters. There he found another adult who apparently was seeking a sexual encounter. The problem was that this other man was an undercover cop on "gay patrol." He arrested the married man for indecent assault and battery. The defendant pleaded guilty, was fined \$62 and was put on probation for two years. Though he has fulfilled the conditions of his probation, the statute requires him to register as a dangerous sex offender.

Calling himself John Doe, he has filed a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the statute, claiming that compelled registration would subject him to economic discrimination (he is a carpenter), familial embarrassment, and harassment by neighbors.

The court agreed, concluding

American victims' rights legislation often does more harm than good

that there is absolutely no evidence that this man constitutes any threat to children or adults. His only crime involves consensual conduct with an adult who turned out to be a cop.

The court struck down as unconstitutional the registration requirement as applied to defendants such as the one who brought the lawsuit.

In order for a Megan's Law to be constitutional as applied to such defendants, it would have to provide a hearing and an affirmative determination "concerning his threat, if any, to minors and others for whose protection the act was passed."

There is absolutely no basis for requiring the registration of adult homosexuals who seek the company of other adult homosexuals. Nor would there be any basis for requiring the registration of johns who solicit adult female prostitutes and are arrested.

These sorts of consensual actions should not be criminal. To require such people to register is to punish them twice for their sexual preferences. It also trivializes Megan's Law, which has a legitimate purpose if limited to truly predatory sexual offenders, especially those – like the man who killed Megan Kanka – whose targets are children.

It will take courage for legislators to vote in favor of narrowing Megan's Law. After all, no one has ever lost an election for being too tough on crime, while many politicians have been defeated for being perceived as soft on crime or permissive about homosexuality.

We live in an age of public hysteria about crime. Although crime rates are dropping dramatically, politicians – especially elected district attorneys seeking higher office – are pandering to the public fear. The result is "victims' rights" legislation which often does more harm than good. It defuses limited resources and directs them away from preventable predatory crimes.

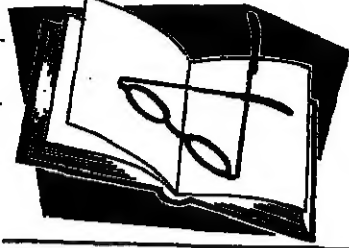
Megan's Law and its variants around the US should be struck down as unconstitutional, except insofar as they apply to dangerous sexual predators who are likely to be repeat offenders. By limiting this powerful weapon to the truly dangerous, its efficiency can be improved. Right now, we have a shotgun that scatters its shot far too widely. What we need is a laser beam. The Massachusetts case is a good beginning.

(United Feature Syndicate)

مكتبة التكميل

The United States of Anger

Book Review



Observing from the sidelines, the BBC's former Washington correspondent finds an America seething from within, reports Bill Glauber

The way Gavin Esler sees it, Americans are angry. They're angry about politicians, lawyers and big government. They're angry about race, abortion, crime and stagnant wages. They're so angry, so polarized, that they are no longer sure whether the American dream works.

Esler, the British Broadcasting Corporation's Washington correspondent from 1989 to 1996, has attempted to document this rage in a book, *The United States of Anger: The People and the American Dream*. During his eight-year tour of America, he broke free from Washington politics and traveled the country, discovering anger in nearly every corner of the country. In Arkansas, he met "the country doctor of the 1990s, armed like a cop and drawing his gun like a cowboy." In Minnesota, he attended an anti-abortion meeting where activists told "I think I'm pregnant with the slogan, 'Intolerance is a Beautiful Thing.' He talked to a super-commuter who lived in Ohio and worked in Florida. He spent an evening with a laid-off worker, holding on to his slice of the American dream in a self-built cabin in a frozen New Hampshire forest. He listened as a Mississippi teacher anguished about trying to mold scarcely literate children for a computer age.

A trip to Oklahoma City found Esler interviewing Kathy and Glen Wilburn, determined grandparents "on an unending mission for the truth," about the terrorist blast that destroyed the federal building there in April 1995, killing scores, including their own two grandchildren.

The Wilburns tracked down hundreds of leads on the case. They also carefully preserved their grandchildren's possessions, including a soiled diaper. They no longer trust their government.

Changes sweep America, Esler writes, "with a speed that leaves tens of millions of otherwise law-abiding taxpayers disgusted, angry and fearful that the most successful country in the history of the world is on the brink of cataclysmic failure." He writes that "belief untroubled by reason," lies at the heart of the angriest people in America, such as the anti-government militias.

Others have been driven to despair by a rapidly changed economy, and technological change.

He blames American lawyers for helping foster a culture of whining and anger. There are too many lawyers in America, he says, writing too many laws, and filing too many frivolous lawsuits. Thus, a country built on individualism has fostered a whining culture.

Despite his often dire assessment, Esler says he actually loves

America. In an interview, he recalls growing up in Scotland, befriending an American boy, and going to his house for lunch.

"In Scotland, a ham sandwich is usually two pieces of bread, a slab of butter, and one piece of ham," Esler says. "That day, I had a real sandwich. Piles of ham and cheese. Lettuce and tomato. For me, that's America. That ham and cheese sandwich."

In 1989, the BBC sent Esler to Washington after sprints covering stories in Russia, China and Northern Ireland. He discovered a country in search of itself and its place in the world at the end of the Cold War.

"I was amazed that there wasn't a sense of celebration," he says.

"There was a sort of sense that things had gone wrong," Esler kept noticing weird things. Like violence. He figured out that statistically, he was safer in Belfast, Northern Ireland, during the height of the terrorist "troubles," than in Washington.

Riots were different, too.

"Every riot I'd ever been to in Northern Ireland was a riot of purpose," he says. "But the riots in Los Angeles after the Rodney King case were simply anarchy. People were trying to grab what they could. One person we got on film was arrested by the cops in Hollywood for stealing a bag of ice. This man was putting his life, his entire future on the line, for a bag of ice from a liquor store. This was not a rational act. This was just anger."

He also covered the 1992 presidential race, in which George Bush was heavily favored after the Persian Gulf War victory. But while traveling in Iowa with Democratic candidate Paul Tsongas, Esler noticed that people weren't talking about the war victory. They were furious about the economy.

"People were asking, 'How come I don't have any health care? How come I can't plant crops this year because I don't know if I'm going to go bust or not?'" Esler recalls.

In his daily television reports from the United States, it was hard for Esler to tell this complicated American story to a British audience.

"Europeans have this bizarre view of the US," he says. "We see a booming stock market, the triumph of the Cold War, a country winning every Olympic gold medal, television reruns of *Baywatch*, *Dallas* and *Superman*." Europeans think they know the US. But what they don't quite understand is the degree to which American society is quite different to Hollywood's portrayal of it.

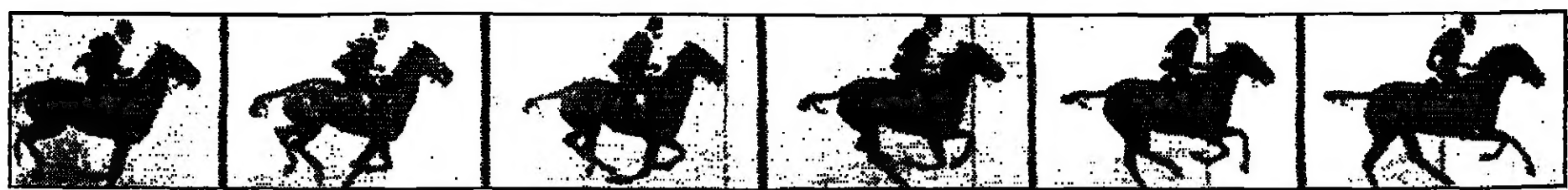
"People in Europe don't understand why America has the death penalty. We have an abortion debate, but nobody gets shot over it."

Europeans know America has guns. They know about the violence of America. But they cannot conceive the nature of the constitutional debate over guns. In Europe, constitutions are not holy writ. They are documents made by flawed men that can be changed.

As a Briton, Esler is accustomed to voting in elections where a turnout of less than 70 percent of the vote is cause for scandal. But in America, where the turnout doesn't even reach 50%, he notes that "those who do not vote need take only a short step further towards failing to accept the moral authority of a government they did not endorse."

In the end, Esler sees a country faced with unrest and violence, with cities that "perpetually hover one court case, one police beating, one shooting away," from a repeat of the riots that engulfed Los Angeles in 1992. Yet he remains confident that the center of American life will hold, aided by an adaptable economy.

"The good news about the United States is it's endlessly inventive," he says. "In America, they're always solving problems, always practical, always looking to do better." (Baltimore Sun)



Eadweard Muybridge: Galloping Horse, 1872

AT THE AUCTIONS WITH MEIR RONEN

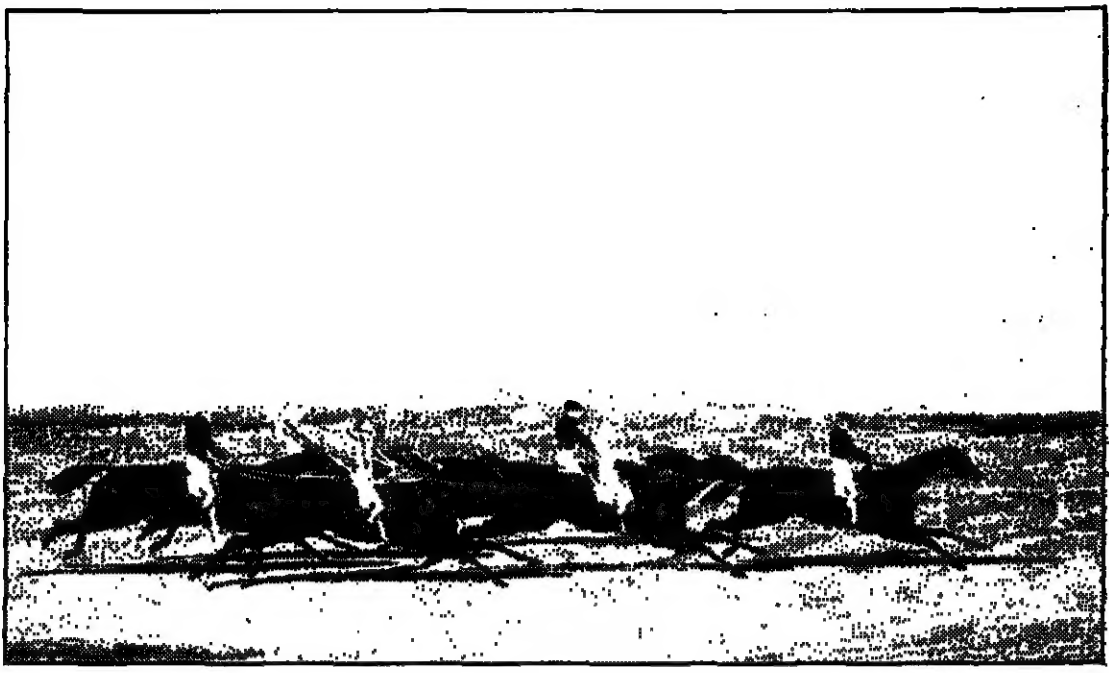
Love and investment

Many art buyers who live in hopes of making a killing have not yet realized that buying for love rather than money, and buying only top quality, is the only way to ensure a handsome investment. Most art, even by "names," rarely sells high enough to compensate for the money that has been tied up in it. The cost of insuring and protecting a major piece can also prove prohibitive. A demonstration of the sole recipe that works, that of holding a major and seminal work for half a

century, was provided at Christie's New York this month, when a Picasso bought by the late Victor and Sally Ganz back in 1941 for \$7,000 (their first serious purchase), went for \$48.4m. over three times its rosiest pre-auction estimate. Granted that \$7,000 was a lot of money in the 40s, the return is still splendid. However, Victor and Sally Ganz never tried to make money on things they bought for love, and they never sold a major picture. If they ever



Pablo Picasso: The Dream, 1932 (sold at Christie's New York for \$48.5m.)



John Frederick Herring Sr.: Doncaster Gold Cup race meeting, 1828

(Sotheby's London)

order to buy something better.

Entitled "The Dream," the \$48.5m. oil depicts Picasso's blonde teenage mistress, Marie-Therese Walther, asleep in an armchair. It is one of the best of a dozen or so oils of Walther painted by the besotted Picasso before he got his young model with child.

The sale of the masterpieces in the Ganz collection, put on the block by their children, brought an astonishing \$206.5m. double its rosiest estimate. The dozen superb Picassos in the sale fetched a total of \$164.2m. The Ganz family were never rich in cash; their heirs feared they could never manage to pay the estate tax. Now, even if they clear only a third of the sum achieved, they should manage to live quite well.

THE COLLECTION of the late Evelyn Sharp, an American hotelier, also did well at a Sotheby's New York sale this month. Top prices were again achieved by Picasso oils, though none of the five reached their best estimates and two didn't make their lowest ones. Best price was \$6m. paid by a private collector. A nude of Marie-Therese went for \$3m. The reason for the higher prices of the Picassos at the Ganz sale was simple: the Ganz works were better.

Three of the Chagall oils sold had been displayed by Sotheby's in Tel Aviv over Succot. I remarked to a Sotheby's director that none of them would make their best estimates. Only one came close and another was sold below estimate. Best price for a Chagall was a tad under \$3.2m. I wouldn't have bought it. The Chagall buyers, by the way, were not Americans.

A good Matisse still life from this collection also failed to reach its lowest estimate but was allowed to go for a respectable \$3.3m. However, a lovely Van Dongen of a girl in a hat nearly doubled its estimate at \$1.15m. Oils by Kees van Dongen, downplayed for years, are currently hot items.

Total of the Sharp sale was \$41.2m. Only five of the 39 lots went unsold, one of them a Modigliani reclining nude. There are so many of these around that buyers may have been suspicious of its origins. However Sotheby's claims there are still clients who are interested in this oil.

MOHAMMED FAYED, owner of the Paris home of the late Duke and Duchess of Windsor, planned to auction its contents in September, but put off the plan after his son Dodi and Princess Diana were killed on August 31. The nine-day, 18-session auction of some 3200 lots will now begin on February 19, at Sotheby's New York. Proceeds will go to a new charity, the Dodi Fayed International Charitable Foundation, which will chiefly bring relief to suffering children around the world.

Among the memorabilia (detailed in this column two months ago) are items relating to Edward Windsor's abdication and his wardrobe of clothing, including some of his loud tweeds.

A SCRAPBOOK ALBUM made by Hans Christian Andersen for the young daughter of a friend was sold by Sotheby's London last week for \$333,500, over five times its pre-sale estimate. It was bought by Justin Schiller, a New

York children's book dealer. Among the clippings pasted into the album are some of Andersen's original papercuts.

LAST WEEK'S \$3m. sale of equine pictures and sculptures at Sotheby's London chiefly featured oils of famous races and winners painted in the late 17th and early 18th century. They are easy to date because all the moving horses are depicted in a stylized manner, with hooves extended in pairs.

It was not until 1872, when pioneer action photographer Eadweard Muybridge set up a series of cameras to be fired as a horse galloped past them, that the gait of a horse could be accurately observed, winning a bet for the photographer, who wagered that at one point all of the hooves would be off the ground. (Two years later, Muybridge was acquitted of murdering his young wife's lover.)

After 1872, all painters, including Degas, began to depict horses in a convincingly realistic manner, as could be seen from other items in this sale.

THE MOST important Brahms manuscript ever to come on the market is to be sold by Sotheby's in London December 5, on behalf of the family of the man for whom it was written: Richard Muhlfield, the greatest clarinetist of his day.

The working manuscript for two sonatas - Opus 120 no.1 in F minor and Opus 120 no.2 in E-flat major - were written in 1895 but amended when Muhlfield worked together with the composer; all 67 pages contain extensive revisions.

The MS, which is dedicated in Brahms's hand to Muhlfield, is estimated to bring between £450,000 - £500,000.

The Arctic: a nuclear time bomb

Earthly Concerns



By D'vora Ben Shaul

The Soviet Union may have broken up, but the well-known Russian penchant for secrecy is alive and

well. This trait has brought about a stand-off in the Arctic that has put Norway and Russia on opposite sides of a chilling issue.

Norwegian scientists and officials of the Norwegian government say that the vast amounts of nuclear waste stored on the Kola Peninsula in northwestern Russia, which borders Norway and Finland, is the largest concentration of nuclear waste in Europe. Off the coast of the peninsula, in the Barents Sea, there are some eighty scrapped nuclear submarines. More than half of them still contain their fuel rods. In addition, thousands of tons of liquid and solid radioactive waste

are stored in tanks on shore and in boats anchored just off shore.

Since 1995, the Norwegian government has been attempting to clean up this dangerous area but has not been able to accomplish much due to lack of cooperation on the part of Russian officials.

The scientists say the matter is becoming critical and something must be done. But the Russians have refused to allow Norwegian inspectors to visit the area. Of special concern is Andreeva Bay, just 50 kilometers from the Norwegian border. In this small area lie 23,000 fuel assemblies from decommissioned nuclear

plants and nuclear-powered submarines. Many of them have simply been dumped and are sitting in the open air. Experts say that an explosion here could be devastating for the entire continent.

Russian scientists are just as worried about these dumps because an accident could be equally disastrous for large parts of Russia and other members of the CIS. But the military, steeped in habits of secrecy and rampant bureaucracy, are apparently not listening.

Another source of tension between Norway and Russia is Russia's plan to build floating nuclear power stations that can be

towed around to supply electricity wherever it is needed. Among potential customers are Indonesia, China and India. The first station to be built is slated to provide electricity to Pevak, a remote area in eastern Siberia. The plan is to use reactors similar to those employed in nuclear ice-breakers. However, it would have to be towed 4,000 km to Murmansk for servicing at least once every 13 years for routine maintenance and more often in the case of malfunctioning equipment. The prospect of having this platform brought right up to its borders is causing a lot of trepidation in Norway.

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DNA sequencing detects cancer earlier

By JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

Three momentous revolutions have shaken the practice of medicine from the time of Hippocrates until the early part of this century, and we are now at the beginning of another one that will have major implications on how doctors battle against disease.

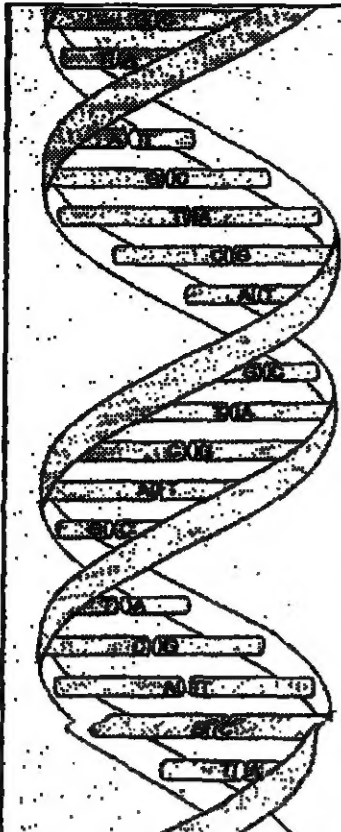
In the first, professional men of medicine, no matter how primitive their knowledge, took over from priests and began to search for causes of disease. Then in the second century CE, Galen – often called the father of experimental physiology – launched a systematic description of the body's systems. Finally, at the beginning of this century, German-Jewish bacteriologist Dr. Paul Ehrlich introduced chemicals that fought microbes and other disease-causing factors.

Today's fourth revolution, according to Hadassah Medical Organization director-general Shmuel Penchas, is looking beyond bodily systems to an examination of the cell and its parts – man's 100,000 genes and the base pairs of their DNA.

One can change a gene in a mouse to cause it to produce a certain enzyme or stop producing one. One can "knock out" a certain gene and a disease will never appear. Scientists can synthesize genes by piecing together base pairs in a specific order; they now are beginning to use viruses as vectors to introduce a new gene.

Work on lab animals is being translated into benefits for patients. Today's cellular medicine is making great strides, said Penchas, with help from highly efficient – and, of course, expensive – computerized devices that examine genes.

HADASSAH HAS invested \$10 million from a special fund to work in this field. One of the first concrete benefits is a new lab with \$500,000 worth of equipment, including a state-of-the-art Perkin Elmer ABI-310 DNA Sequencer, installed in Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem, to conduct molecular identification of carriers of ovar-



One can knock out a certain gene and a disease will never appear.

an, breast and other cancers. The cost of the device – which is the size of an office refrigerator – and the rest of the lab equipment, was covered by the Marcus family of Australia, which made its generous donation in memory of Stephen John Marcus through the Jewish National Fund.

Penchas and Sharett Institute of Oncology director Tamar Peretz recently unveiled the new facility, the likes of which does not exist in any other Israeli hospital. The Weizmann Institute and the Hebrew University's Givat Ram campus have an earlier model of the device but use it only for research. There are only two to three dozen DNA sequencers of this type in hospitals abroad.

The Ein Kerem facility has already begun taking blood from

women with a first-degree relative who has had breast or ovarian cancer. Since most research on genetic mutations have involved Ashkenazi Jewish women in the US, there is little data on mutations in Sephardi women, but the new equipment will be able to screen for these as well, Peretz said.

RONIT, A grandmother who is of Sephardi origin, contracted breast cancer three years ago and underwent a mastectomy; the disease then returned in the other breast.

"We have a family history of cancer, including my mother and her brother, so I wanted to have my daughter Galia tested to see if she carries a BRCA gene and has to take special measures against breast and ovarian cancer. But we were told that because we are Sephardi, too little was known about genetic mutations and nothing could be done."

Now, however, they and other Sephardi women with a family history of cancer have been called to the Sharett Institute to have their DNA sequenced, so that they can get answers.

Peretz, along with Prof. Dvora Abelowich of the molecular lab in the genetics department and genetics adviser Dr. Michal Sagl, said that until now, genetic diagnosis of carriers has been carried out at Hadassah and other hospitals by polymerase chain reaction (PCR). This magnifies the pattern of DNA base pairs, but one can look only at specific locations in the genome to find out if there is something missing.

The new device automatically scans the patient's genetic composition and looks for any divergences from the norm, specifically those that can increase the risk of genetically transmitted cancers, not only gynecological cancer but also of the colon and other types.

The difference between PCR and the DNA Sequencer can be compared to checking whether a Torah scroll is counterfeit by looking for only a number of specific words, or having the entire text checked letter by letter, using a computer that compares it to the correct text.

While most gynecological can-



Prof. Dvora Abelowich operates a state-of-the-art Perkin Elmer ABI-310 DNA Sequencer, which has been installed in Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem, to conduct molecular identification of carriers of ovarian, breast and other cancers. (Avi Heyman)

cers are not genetic, the chances that a patient with ovarian cancer is a carrier of the defective gene is 45%, while of a woman with breast and ovarian cancer is over 80%. They noted that 25,000 healthy Ashkenazi women in Israel carry the BRCA1, BRCA2 or BRCA3 genetic mutations and are at high risk for contracting such cancers at some point in their lifetime.

EARLY DIAGNOSIS can lead to prophylactic oophorectomy (preventive removal of ovaries) in women who have completed their families. Those at risk can also undergo careful follow-up, mam-

mograms, and reduce the cancer risk from environmental factors with diet, exercise and weight control.

If a parent is the carrier of a gene responsible for breast, ovarian, colon or other cancers, the chances of inheriting it are only 50%. Some with a family history won't want to know if they're carriers – it would make them too anxious – while others will, since this could lead to preventive treatment or early treatment with a much higher cure rate. For those who are not carriers, just being told so will reduce anxiety and improve their daily functioning.

However, the Health Ministry

does not interpret the National Health Insurance Law as requiring the health funds to pay for such tests, even though identifying carriers can lead to earlier diagnosis and greatly increase survival rates.

Peretz said that twice as many women with a family history of the diseases would come for testing if their health fund approved it. Kupat Holim Clalit has been the most likely to refuse to pay the NIS 800 cost of testing and genetic counseling, while Maccabi approved it without difficulty.

Dr. Ada Ben-Sasson, medical director of Clalit's Jerusalem district, said that "oncogenetics testing is not part of the basket of

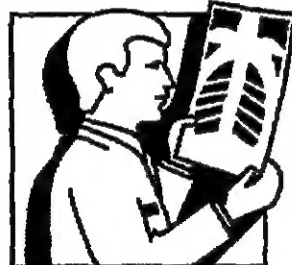
health services, so Clalit doesn't have to pay for it."

Dr. Yitzhak Berilovich, head of the Health Ministry's medical services division, said that genetic testing for cystic fibrosis and other diseases in which the health benefit is clear must be covered by the health funds, but for types of cancer that are passed on by gene mutations, they need not pay.

"There is a professional debate about this topic, and the ministry has asked for recommendations by experts. But a decision on inclusion in the basket of services will take time, and a cost-benefit analysis will also have to be included."

Israelis don't practice good health behavior

Health Scan



By Judy Siegel-Itzkovich

Despite the plethora of information on health matters and even laws to promote healthy behavior, many Israelis still haven't taken things to heart.

According to the results of a survey conducted on a representative sample of 3,000 Israelis and reported at the Fourth European Conference on Health Education and Promotion, two-thirds of the population fail to get their blood-cholesterol levels checked. Half of those polled were ignorant of the fact that cancer can be hereditary. Two-thirds of those over 18 are couch potatoes doing no regular aerobic exercise to get their heart and lungs functioning at maximum capacity. Two out of three women over the age of 50 haven't undergone a mammogram to detect breast cancer.

The conference, held recently in Tel Aviv and organized by the Health Ministry's health education department, also disclosed survey results that only 17% of workers

reported a decrease in smoking in the workplace, despite regulations passed two years ago that allow employees to light up only in closed areas set aside for the purpose. Department officials said that the finding about smoking points up the need for increased information activities and enforcement.

PERPETUAL FERTILITY?

The good news is that females can be fertile, with viable ova, throughout their lifetimes; the bad news is that so far, the technique that makes this possible has been tried only on mice. Harvard Medical School scientists experimenting with mice have found a way to keep cells in ovaries from dying and thus block the onset of menopause, London's *Sunday Times* has reported.

The researchers discovered that an application of two chemical agents called fumonisin-B1, a fungal toxin, and sphingosine-1-phosphate, stops cells in the ovaries from dying. The research is also being published in the scientific journal *Nature Medicine*.

Project leader Jonathan Tilly said the research is still at the experimental stage, but he added that the results with mice were so good the technique could be used on women very soon. "Hormone replacement therapy will become a thing of the past because the implant would preserve ovarian function," Tilly said. "The results are so striking that in a perfect



A survey shows Israelis are not heeding warnings about their health.

world we would take it into clinics right now." Hormone replacement therapy provides women with estrogen, which wanes with the onset of menopause.

The scientists developed the technique to preserve fertility in cancer patients. Cancer treatment often makes young women infertile, stopping the ovaries from producing estrogen and bringing on early menopause.

FAXES FOR THE DEAF

The Health Ministry will finance the purchase of fax machines for all Magen David Adom ambulance stations so the deaf can call for

help. Health Minister Yehoshua Matza decided to spend the NIS 50,000 for this at the request of an association for the hearing impaired, which said many deaf people have fax machines to communicate with others, but cannot call an ambulance due to the lack of fax machines in MDA stations.

Back to bed – or to work?



By Judy Siegel-Itzkovich

I am a 32-year-old woman generally in good health. I recently had my first bout with lower back pains. One orthopedist I saw said I must stay in bed and rest, while another one I consulted said I must get out of bed and be active. How do you explain these opposite opinions? R.N. Pardes Hanna

Dr. Daniel Plonkin of the orthopedics department at Soroka Hospital in Beersheba, answers: One would have to look at your test results and x-rays to know exactly what your problem is. But in general, the view that a person with lower back pains should stay in bed and rest is becoming out-

dated. The latest research has found that moderate activity promotes recovery of an acute back condition, as it promotes the function of the spine and strengthens the muscles. You needn't do special exercises, but instead, go about your daily routine. Conventional pain relievers can be taken for pain but you should go to work if you can.

Since arriving in Israel 16 years ago, I have suffered from allergy attacks every mid-April for six weeks. This year I sailed through April and May, but had worse attacks from June until October. Was there something new in the air this year? Is there any danger in taking 120 mgs. of Ternalin once a day for three months, which is the only thing that helped? Is there a qualitative difference among the anti-histamines on the market? M.A., Jerusalem

Prof. Meir Shalit, director of the allergy unit in the clinical immunology department at Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem, replies: There are two possible explanations for this phenomenon: either

the later arrival of winter delayed the flowering of the tree or plant to which you are allergic, causing the symptoms to appear later – or you have developed a new allergy. You should be tested by an allergist to find out and decide on treatment. Taking 120 mgs. of Ternalin for three months or even more will not cause any harm, but you must make sure to inform any doctor who prescribes other medications for you, as they could conflict with it. Certain types of antibiotics and anti-fungal drugs should not be taken with Ternalin. In general, the effects of all new-generation anti-histamines are similar.

Rx For Readers welcomes queries from readers about medical problems. Experts will answer those we find most interesting, and replies will be printed in the twice-monthly column on the Health Page. Write Rx For Readers, The Jerusalem Post, POB 81, Jerusalem 91000, fax: (02) 538-9527 or e-mail: justie@ipost.co.il, giving your initials, age and place of residence. Phoned-in queries will not be accepted.

Gene therapy used to grow blood vessels

By THOMAS H. MAUGH II

Gene therapy has been used in Boston for the first time to grow new arteries in the legs of patients with severe vascular disease, bypassing blocked blood vessels and restoring circulation to limbs that would otherwise have been amputated. The unprecedented ability to grow new blood vessels could benefit not only the hundreds of thousands of patients around the world who undergo leg bypass surgery every year, but also many more who have coronary artery bypasses, experts said.

The leg treatment halted gangrene and ulcers caused by poor circulation in all but one of the 10 patients studied, eliminated pain and enabled patients to move around more freely. Dr. Jeffrey Isner of the St. Elizabeth's Medical Center in Boston told a recent meeting of the American Heart Association in Orlando, Florida.

In a second study, Harvard researchers said they had successfully used gene therapy to prevent blockage in veins grafted into the legs of four heart-disease patients to bypass artery blockages.

The two studies are "the first applying gene therapy to cardiovascular disease in humans with success," said Dr. Valentine Fuster of Mt. Sinai Hospital, president of the American Heart Association.

Gene therapy involves the manipulation of a patient's DNA to treat or cure illness. In most cases it involves replacing a defective gene with a healthy one, but in some instances, such as these, it might involve shutting a gene off or producing a therapeutic protein.

Isner and his colleagues studied 10 patients with severe atherosclerosis. This disease clogs arteries throughout the body, and legs are especially vulnerable because of their distance from the heart. Because of the reduced flow in their legs, the patients had severe skin ulcers, gangrene and intense resting pain that typically required heavy narcotic treatment. All other attempts at treatment had failed and the next step would have been amputation.

The team treated the patients with DNA that served as the blueprint for a protein called vascular endothelial growth factor, or VEGF, which stimulates the growth of blood vessels. They injected the DNA into muscles at four sites along the leg at the beginning of the treatment and once again four weeks later. The VEGF injections stimulated new blood vessels to grow, improving the flow of blood through the legs. All of the patients had an improved ability to walk, reduced pain and improved ulcer healing. In eight of the 10 treated legs, improved blood

flow could be verified by magnetic resonance imaging. Angiograms confirmed evidence of new vessels in seven of the 10 treated limbs. Blood pressure in the legs also improved. Only one of the patients' legs had to be amputated – in a 39-year-old woman with severe atherosclerosis in both legs.

Meanwhile, Cato Research Israel, the Tel Aviv subsidiary of the Cato Holding Company in North Carolina, will participate in the development and commercialization of gene therapy products for the treatment of vascular diseases. St. Elizabeth's Medical Center, Cato, Human Genome Sciences Inc. and Dr. Isner have formed a new company, Vascular Genetics Inc., for this purpose. Isner will continue pre-clinical work and initiate clinical work with his vascular endothelial growth factor 2 in the US and in Israel.

Patients who are at an earlier stage of disease and can still be treated with bypasses, are the focus of the second study, reported by Dr. Michael Mann of Harvard and Dr. Victor J. Dzau of Brigham & Women's Hospital in Boston. The conventional treatment in such patients is to surgically implant a vein – usually the saphenous vein from the leg – to bypass the obstructed leg artery.

The problem is that a vein is not an artery. It's thinner and weaker because blood pressure is lower in veins. When veins are exposed to the higher pressures in the arterial system, the pressure triggers a complex set of changes that leaves the veins especially susceptible to atherosclerosis, a buildup of deposits on the insides of arteries. An estimated 30 percent of such grafts fail in two to five years and half within 10 years.

Working in animals, Mann and Dzau found a way to alter this process. Treating the tissue with a short segment of DNA allows the tissue to take a different pathway in which only useful muscle tissue is produced.

Once the tissue enters this pathway, moreover, the process is "irreversible," Mann said, and the risk of atherosclerosis is reduced. "Basically, we're trying to manipulate the biology of a vein and make it behave more like an artery," Mann explained.

Mann reported on the team's studies with the first four patients they have treated. When the saphenous vein was removed from the patients' legs, it was bathed for about 10 minutes in a solution containing the DNA for the transcription factor decoy and then implanted in the normal fashion. Nine months later, all the grafts are still unobstructed, paving the way to major clinical trials with 2,000 patients. (Los Angeles Times)



The latest research has found that moderate activity promotes recovery of an acute back condition. (Brian Handler)

Electronic 'shouting' from the rooftops

By JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

What's smaller than a bread box and has the ability to link people, via TV, Internet and phone links, any time of the day or night and in nearly any type of weather? It's an AirOptics wireless optical transceiver, a device that sends communications over an invisible beam of light from building to building and even from a parked jet plane to the airline's network. The system, based on patents held by the five-year-old Jerusalem-based company, is an alternative to cable and even some cellular phone communications, which poses no health dangers from electromagnetic radiation and requires no digging

under the ground or into the walls. AirOptics was founded five years ago by Dr. David Medved, a physicist with a doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania who came on aliya in 1990, after selling his fiber optics business to Amoco Oil. Medved remains AirOptics president. AirOptics began as JOLT (Jerusalem Optical Link Technologies), which was an industrial "incubator" that took root at the Jerusalem College of Technology (JCT). A number of JCT graduates, who studied high-level science and technology in addition to Talmud, are among the 25-member AirOptics staff - which explains the sign on the door of the Talpiot industrial zone

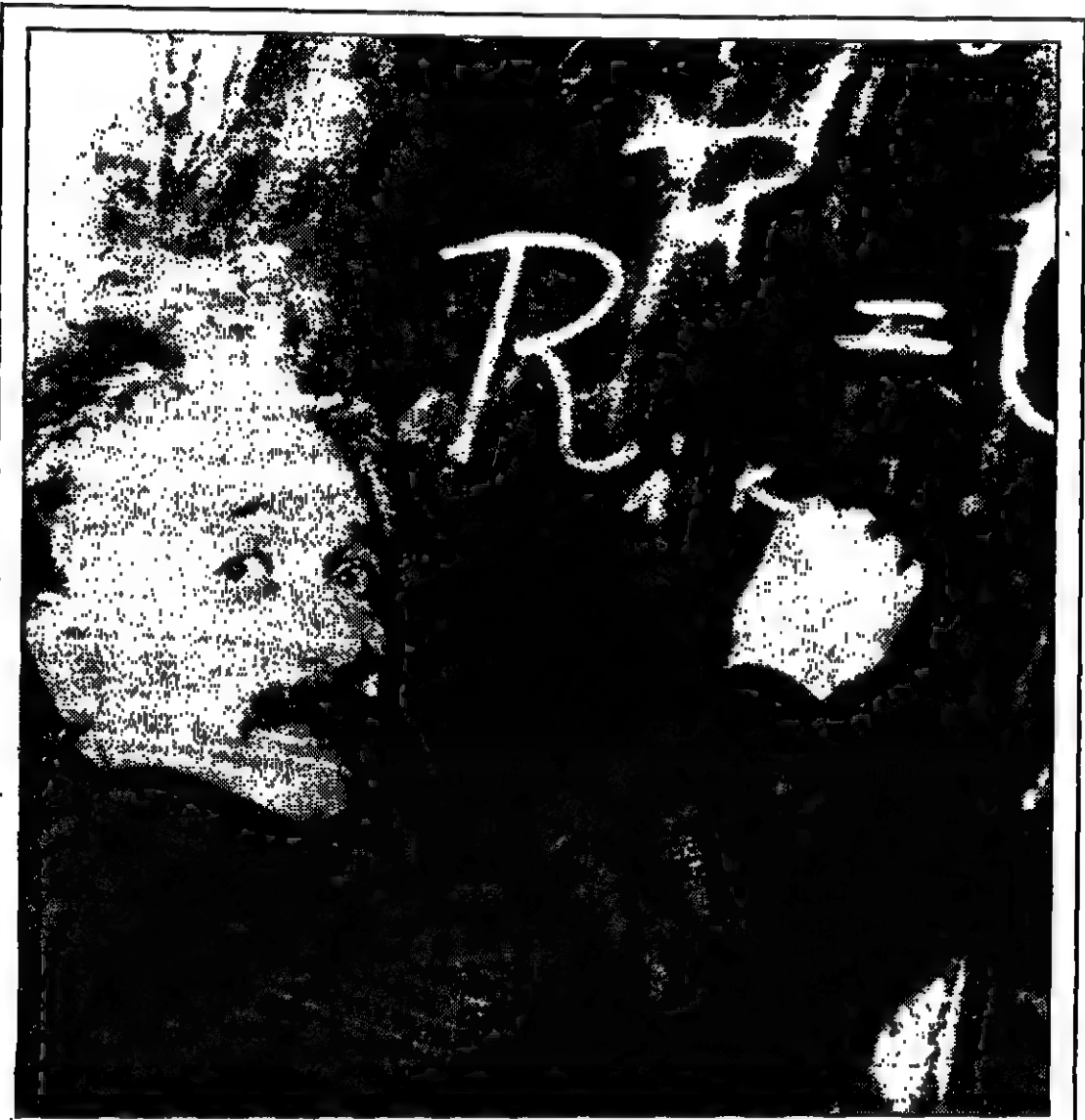
office noting when the afternoon minyan will be held. JOLT grew and acquired a subsidiary in the US, and was then merged with Laser Communications of Pennsylvania to become AirOptics, says Yael Amishav, the company's director of business development. Today it uses both names in its dealings and publicity material, in which it claims to be a "world leader in wireless optical links." THE TRANSCIVERS - one on one rooftop and a second on another - serve as the basic unit of optic communications. They are little grey boxes, each with two round glass windows, that emit invisible light at a high frequency and speed. The system can func-

tion at temperatures from -45° to 75°, and the units must be set up along a direct line of sight. The beams don't pass through solid objects, but a passing bird will not fade it, and neither will the beams harm the bird. Amishav notes that the first application at JCT was medical: computerized tomography scans required brushes or twisted wires to transmit data from one part to another, but these broke down and the machines had to be dismantled to repair them. Optical transmission allowed reliable, high-resolution transmission of data. "We have filed a patent on that in the US and Israel," said Amishav. There are other companies that offer optical communications, including the copier and

camera giant Canon and a German firm, "but our price is only a fraction of theirs and our speed, using LEDs [light-emitting diodes] is 155 megabits per second, while they use slower lasers." The transceivers are placed on rooftops at a maximum of 1.2 kilometers away from each other. Under clear skies, the system can function when the shoebox-sized devices are considerably farther apart, but to provide reliable, all-weather service, a shorter distance was made the norm, Amishav notes. "The AirOptics system is ideal for communications among buildings in corporate, hospital or university campuses, factories or airport facilities. When a body of water, such as a river or stream,

separates two buildings, phone cables are not recommended but rooftop optical links are easily installed." In an airport, a jet that has landed can download information from its "black box" to control towers or airline terminals or upload in-flight entertainment without the two being physically connected. AIROPTICS HAS over 50 distributors in two dozen countries and more than 2,000 units working around the world. These include buildings in a French ministry; a connection across the Gibraltar/Spain border that makes international calls local; a "token ring" for five Bank Leumi buildings; links in a Norwegian insurance company; and a variety of systems

in Portugal, Singapore, Italy, Turkey, Latvia, Sweden and Japan. A cellular phone company has even used AirOptics as an intermediate link between base stations. (with Alcatel mobile systems offering the solutions in its own catalogue) and the same can be done with Bezeq infrastructure. Telecommunications experts always say that "the last mile is still the longest." This refers to the relative ease of laying communications cables along main routes but the difficulty of reaching individual addresses some distance away from these routes. AirOptics systems can bridge that gap, and even the sky is not the limit.



The seemingly preposterous predictions of Einstein's theory are now being corroborated.

Additional evidence of Einstein's predictive genius

By K.C. COLE

One of Albert Einstein's major predictions has received serious corroboration eight decades later by astrophysicists in the US and Italy. They report evidence that space gets dragged around by spinning objects like the train of a wedding dress circling a twirling bride. If correct, the findings pin down one of the final hypotheses of Einstein's theory, which forms the bedrock of physicists' understanding of all large scale events in the universe. Other seemingly preposterous predictions of the theory that are now all but proven true include the existence of galaxy-size gravity lenses that bend starlight and black holes that suck in everything including light. Now, one of the last holdouts - the idea that space itself gets swirled by spinning objects - appears to have been seen by researchers from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the Astronomical Observatory of Rome 80 years after it was first proposed. "It's taking what was science fiction and bringing it into everyday astronomy," said Michael Nowak, a University of Colorado astrophysicist who reported on the findings at a scientific meeting in Colorado. According to Einstein's theory of gravity, what people normally think of as empty space is actually a tightly woven fabric of space and time, interlocked like threads in a cloth. The space-time fabric gets warped by massive objects, just as a sheet would get warped into a deep well if an elephant were to sit on a bed. Anything that comes near the well naturally rolls in, and that "falling" is the force we perceive as gravity. If the elephant twists around on the bed, his motion carries the sheet with him. And if Einstein's theory is correct, so should space-time be dragged around massive objects. In the new work, the scientists report that they were able

to witness evidence of this dragging by observing the behavior of cosmic behemoths such as black holes and spinning stars. Black holes - by definition - cannot be seen directly, as no light escapes their grasp. However, a visible companion orbiting near the black hole slowly gets sucked in by its immense gravity. The dust and gas get ripped off the star and swirl down into the hole, heating up to a billion degrees in the process and sending out an X-ray signal that can be decoded. Using the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Rossi X-Ray Timing Explorer satellite, scientists believe they saw convincing evidence for "frame dragging." If the evidence for frame dragging bears out, it would give further strength to the belief that Einstein's theory of gravity is right. "It's probably the biggest effect of Einstein's theories that hasn't been detected," said astrophysicist Lynn Cominsky of Sonoma State University, a spokeswoman for the meeting. While Einstein's theory has passed all experimental tests "with flying colors," according to University of Illinois astrophysicist Frederick Lamb, "this is the first time we're entering the regime of very strong gravity." The strongest gravitational fields encircle stars that have used up their nuclear fuel and collapse under their own weight. Some condense into neutron stars, so dense that a teaspoon would weigh millions of tons. Other, more massive stars, get squeezed to such extremes that they bend space-time into a black hole, from which nothing can escape. The Rossi X-Ray satellite was launched by NASA in 1995 specifically to study such objects. Unlike the Hubble Space Telescope, the Rossi telescope does not take visible images. Instead, it detects energetic X-ray light coming from very close to the center of collapsed stars - within about 800 kilometers of the center.

Over the past year, researchers discovered that black holes and neutron stars sent out very regular X-ray signals, "like pure tones," Lamb said. The tones are probably caused by dense blobs of gas swirling around hundreds or thousands of times per second, like a lighthouse beacon. Unexpectedly, these pure signals gave researchers a way to detect subtle wobbles that would indicate that space-time is being dragged. Just like a top wobbles as it gets dragged down by friction, so the orbiting blobs of gas would wobble as they drag space-time along with them. Signals had been detected several years ago, but no one had looked for evidence of frame-dragging in them, partly because no one had thought it was possible to see them, said astrophysicist Luigi Stella of the Astronomical Observatory of Rome. Stella and his colleagues calculated that if certain neutron stars were dragging space around them, their fluctuating X-ray signal should contain a second, slower, signal superimposed on the first. He saw such a motion in three of 15 stars he analyzed. "The conclusion is that we are getting the first observational evidence of an effect that has been searched for for generations," he said. If it's true, "it confirms one of the deepest consequences of Einstein's theory." After learning about Stella's work, MIT astrophysicist Wei Cui applied a similar analysis to X-ray signals from black holes. Like Stella, he concluded that he was probably seeing evidence of frame dragging "because the numbers seem to work out so well." However, the evidence is "very indirect," Wei cautioned. Along with Stella, he said he was looking forward to the results of an experiment to measure the dragging of the space-time frame around the Earth. The device - a nearly perfect gyroscope - is to be launched aboard the space shuttle in March 2000. (Los Angeles Times)

TELL ME WHY

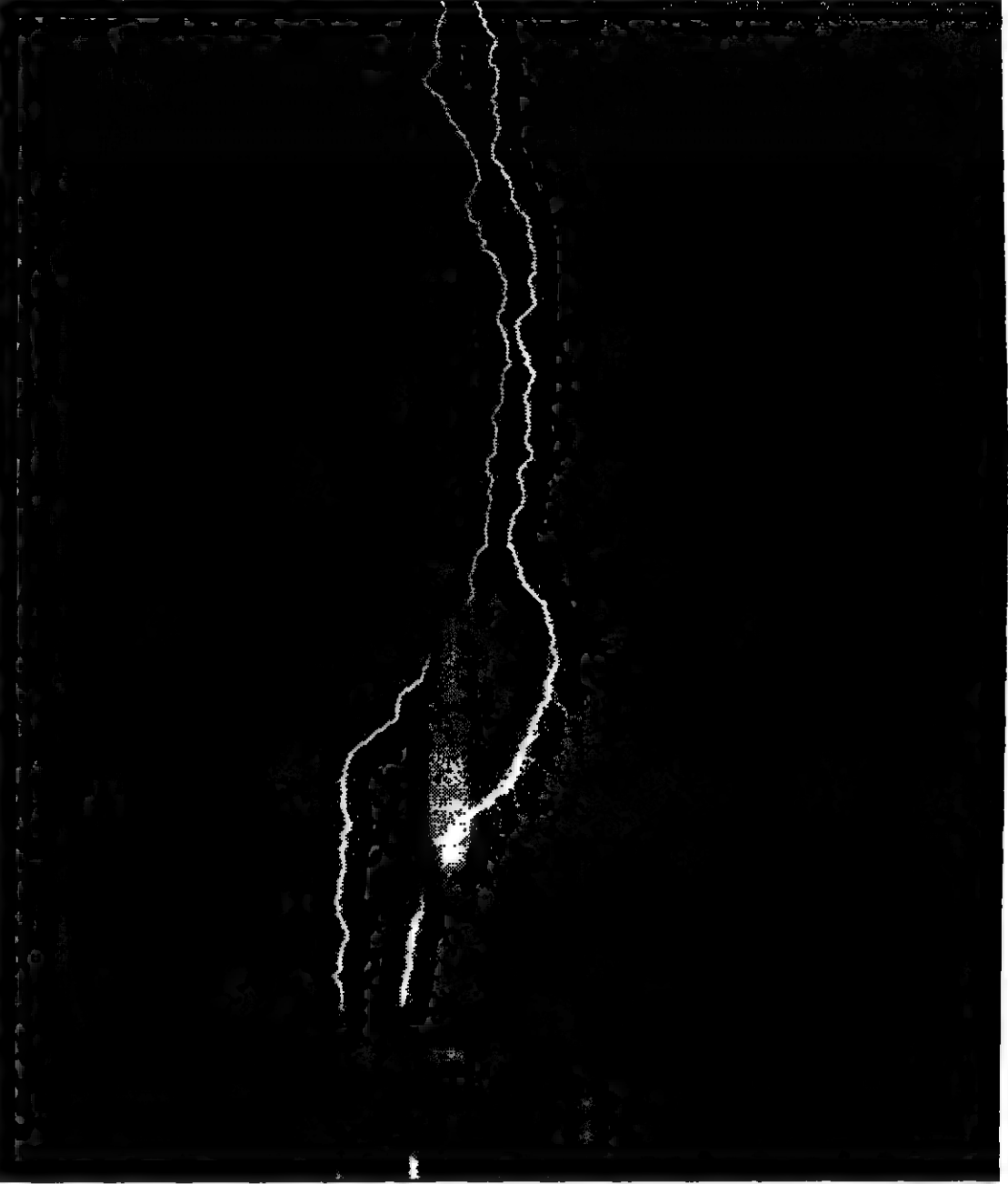
If lightning strikes, can thunder be far away?

By JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

Is there any formula to estimate how far someone is from a lightning strike? I heard something about counting seconds between the flash of lightning and hearing the thunder. Henry, Jerusalem Prof. Avraham Zangvil, a meteorological expert at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, comments: You are right. There is a recognized formula, based on fact, that the sound from thunder travels at 340 meters a second, while the light from lightning travels at 300,000 kilometers per second. Therefore, you see the lightning immediately, but the sound of thunder takes several seconds to arrive. All you have to do is count the seconds between the two phenomena and multiply them by one-third of a kilometer to get your answer.

Irwin Gross of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem's Casali Institute for Applied Chemistry answers: The organic chemical in onions is called isotropyl mercaptan. It is a lacrimator (it causes the eyes to tear) and has a sulphur compound that causes the phenomenon. Skunks produce a chemical from the same family, and tear gas copies the chemical structure. One way to prevent the vapors from reaching your eyes is to peel or cut onions under running water. Have you always wondered about the scientific explanation

for ordinary phenomena? Now you can get an answer. Mail your question to TELL ME WHY, The Jerusalem Post, P.O.B. 81, 91000 Jerusalem, fax it to (02) 5389527, or send it by e-mail to jusie@post.co.il. Please include your first name and place of residence.



Why do some photographs of people, whether indoors or outdoors, make the pupils of their eyes appear red? Shlomo, Rosh Ha'ayin David Brauner, The Jerusalem Post's photography expert, replies: This is a phenomenon called "red eye." It's caused by the reflection of light on the retina, which is full of rods, cones, and blood vessels. Red eye occurs only when a flash is used and the subject faces the camera directly. If the subject is standing at a slight angle and is not directly in front of the lens, the flash doesn't enter the pupil directly and hit the retina, so you don't see it in the photograph. Red eye usually doesn't appear when the person is standing opposite the sun because in direct sunlight, the subject tends to squint and his pupils contract, preventing most of the light from entering the eye. But a flash is sudden, and the pupils don't have time to contract. What is it in onions that causes the eyes to hurt and tear every time you cut them? Is there any way to prevent it? Rita, Ra'anana

If you want to know how far away lightning is when it strikes, just count the seconds until the thunder arrives and multiply by one-third of a kilometer. (Krusch Fischer)

Internet's access to information strikes fear in heart of dictatorships

By MATTHEW McALLESTER

The man leaned across the table and spoke so quietly that only the two of us could hear. His eyes moved from side to side, scanning the restaurant and the street outside for possible informers or military intelligence agents. That's the way people communicate in Burma when they're talking with a foreigner about something that could land them in prison for several years. "You know what?" the man said. "I got E-mail." "You can't have," I said. For several reasons I knew he had to be telling me a tall story. For a start, it's illegal to access the Internet in Burma. It's illegal to own an unlicensed fax machine or modem. A few years ago a supporter of the largest pro-democracy party in Burma died in prison, where he'd been sent because he did not have a license for his fax machine. No one has E-mail or Internet access in Burma, except for a select few business owners who are friendly with the military regime that rules the country. Diplomats at a few foreign embassies also acknowledge that they have Net access and E-mail despite the Burmese government's restrictions. Even then, they say their E-mail is intercepted and read by the Burmese authorities. This is a country where reporters have to visit in the guise of tourists, which is how I traveled in September and October. In Burma, all international calls are listened to by operators and the Burmese people assume, by military intelligence. So how could the man I was talking to across the table possibly have navi-

gated these political and technological barriers to get E-mail? "No, I do. I've got it," he said. The man smiled. He's a fixer, a small business owner. People come to him for help. He's thinking of offering people access to his Net account - for a price. Most of all, he looks out for himself, keeping on the right side of the military authorities but not showing them the fear they are so used to seeing in the faces of Burmese people. "I dial out anywhere I can," he said. "My account is in Australia, but I'll use a server from anywhere. Anywhere." For the sake of communicating with the outside world, the man was prepared to risk prison. "WHAT WOULD happen if you had Net access?" I asked another Burmese man, who spoke in a whisper even when he was alone at home. "The government, it would be over," he said. "We could share information." Information and open communication in an oppressive state like Burma are invaluable tools in fighting the status quo. I spent some time one evening in Rangoon with U Tin Oo, a former general in the Burmese army and now a senior leader of the National League for Democracy, the largest pro-democracy party. All told, he's spent nine years in prison for his political activities. As we spoke, the phone often rang. Delegates to the party conference that weekend were en route to Rangoon, and they called Tin Oo to discuss the event. The conversations were superficial. "They tap my phone always," Tin Oo

explained. When I left I had to take two taxis and walk among crowds in downtown Rangoon to shake the military intelligence officials that a pro-democracy contact had said would follow me. I worried about my own information, my notes. I longed to be able to turn them into ones and zeroes and E-mail them home. Instead, I hid them at the bottom of my backpack. A couple of weeks later I was in Thailand, interviewing Burmese dissidents and refugees who have fled the Burmese government. Working with them in the north of Thailand are several Westerners who work as human-rights campaigners, doctors and advocates for the refugees. E-mail is an important tool in their work, as it helps them coordinate with people outside Thailand. One woman collects every story she can find about Burma into the BurmaNet News E-mail newsletter, which is delivered to the E-mail boxes of hundreds of journalists, activists and government officials around the world. It's precisely the kind of democratizing spread of information that the Burmese people are denied. But even in Thailand there are problems. The human-rights advocates and health workers use encryption when communicating online. "They read all our E-mail," said an Australian doctor, referring to the Thai authorities. "The other day I tried to get my E-mail and my password had been changed."

The Thai government maintains diplomatic relations with the Burmese government, a pariah regime to many other democracies. (Newsday)

Isiah Thomas quits as GM of Raptors

TORONTO (AP) — Isiah Thomas resigned as general manager of the struggling Toronto Raptors on Thursday and will sell his 9 percent stake in the National Basketball Association team.

Thomas, who has been offered a multimillion-dollar broadcasting job with NBC, will be replaced by assistant general manager Glen Grunwald. The Raptors are 1-9, last in the Eastern Conference's Central Division.

"It is with regret that we say goodbye to Isiah Thomas," majority owner Allan Slaight said. "He has made an important contribution to this franchise and we will miss him."

"He has laid a solid foundation for the Raptors, one that we will continue to build on for years to come. But what is positive about this team is that one member can move on, and everyone pulls together to ensure that the team continues to build and grow." Thomas failed earlier this year in a bid to buy out Slaight and relations between the two were reported to be strained ever since. Also, construction of the Raptors' new arena has been a money drain.

The NBC deal reportedly includes an analyst job on NBA telecasts and his own show on MSNBC, one of the network's cable outlets.

The face of the Raptors may change dramatically with Thomas' departure.

Raptors captain Damon

Stoudamire, the team's star player, often has said Thomas was one of the major reasons for staying in Toronto.

The rumored exit of Thomas had been front-page news in Toronto since the *Toronto Star* first reported that the franchise builder was up for a broadcasting job with NBC.

NBA standings and results

EASTERN CONFERENCE					WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division					Midwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB		W	L	Pct	GB
New York	7	4	.636	0	San Antonio	7	4	.636	0
Miami	7	4	.636	0	Minnesota	6	5	.545	1
Orlando	7	4	.636	0	Houston	6	5	.545	1
New Jersey	6	4	.600	1	Vancouver	6	5	.545	1
Boston	6	4	.600	1	Utah	6	5	.545	1
Washington	6	4	.600	1	Dallas	6	5	.545	1
Philadelphia	3	6	.333	3	Denver	5	6	.455	2
Central Division					Pacific Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB		W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	11	1	.917	0	LA Lakers	10	2	1.000	0
Charlotte	7	3	.700	3	Phoenix	10	2	.778	2
Chicago	7	3	.556	4	Seattle	9	3	.750	2
Milwaukee	6	5	.545	4	Portland	8	3	.727	2
Indiana	6	5	.545	4	Sacramento	7	4	.636	3
Cleveland	5	6	.455	5	Golden State	6	5	.545	4
Detroit	4	6	.400	6	LA Clippers	1	11	.091	10
Toronto	1	10	.091	9					

Thursday's games: New York 100, Atlanta 79; Portland 93, Detroit 87; Indiana 108, Milwaukee 85; Houston 27, Toronto 97; Golden State 101, Dallas 97; Phoenix 89, Chicago 85; Sacramento 97, Utah 85.

Friday's games: New York 104, Washington 82; Charlotte 119, Miami 102; Boston 101, New Jersey 83; Cleveland 103, Minnesota 84; Seattle 94, San Antonio 74; Vancouver 99, Denver 96; Chicago 111, LA Clippers 100.

Hadad wins another satellite leg

By HEATHER CHART

Amir Hadad won his second singles title on the four-week Friedman men's tennis satellite, beating Noam Behr in Jaffa yesterday.

Two weeks ago, Hadad won in Jerusalem but was defeated in the first round in Haifa last week, due to his unsporting behavior.

Yesterday Hadad, seeded second, beat Behr 6-4, 2-6, 6-1 after beating Lior Mor 6-7, 6-1, 6-4 in the semi-final.

Behr beat the top seed and winner from Haifa Ofir Sela 6-0, 7-6 in the other semi-final.

Hadad augmented his victory by winning the doubles with Yoni

Erich. As in the Jerusalem final, the pair beat Andy Ram and Michael Kogan 6-2, 1-6, 6-3.

In the Vanessa Phillips women's tournament, also in Jaffa, Anna Smashnova waltzed to victory without dropping a set.

In yesterday's final, top seed Smashnova beat second seed Tsippi Obziler 6-3, 6-2.

In the semi-finals, Smashnova beat Jackie Rosen from the US 6-4, 6-0 and Obziler beat Bianca Kamper of Austria 7-5, 6-0.

The doubles team of Smashnova and Obziler reached the final where they lost to Maaike Koutstaal of the Netherlands and Namy Cahana 6-2, 6-1.

Netanya crush Ra'anana in local rugby

By JOEL GORDIN

Hapoel Netanya yesterday convincingly defeated Ra'anana 25-10 at Tel Aviv's Sportek in the main game of the local rugby league.

Netanya's points came from five unconverted tries scored by No. 8 Avital Eliasov (2), flanker Claudio Silverman, full-back Mike Bobrov

and hooker Javier Rochas.

Dean Du Plessis was responsible for all Ra'anana's points. He scored a try and kicked a conversion and a penalty.

In the other league game Hapoel Galil Elyon thrashed Rishon LeZion 31-17 at Rishon. Under 16 results: Hadera 20, Hapoel Galil Elyon 10; Ashkelon 45, Kiryat Tivon 10.

Healy sets record as Kiwis battered in Perth Test

PERTH (Reuters) — Ian Healy became Australia's highest-scoring wicketkeeper in Tests as New Zealand were left facing defeat in the second test yesterday.

Healy hammered 85 and paceman Paul Reiffel struck 54 which, after Steve Waugh's dismissal for 96, pushed Australia's first innings to 461 all out.

New Zealand, needing 244 to avoid an innings defeat, slumped to 69 for three at the close on the third day at the WACA ground.

Healy, who had made three of the overnight 235 for four, went on to increase his aggregate to 3,648 runs in 96 Tests, overtaking the previous record mark for an Australian wicketkeeper of 3,633 in 96 Tests by Rod Marsh.

The redoubtable Healy now has the second highest aggregate by a wicketkeeper in Test history behind England's Alan Knott, who compiled 4,389 runs in his 95 Tests.

Healy and Reiffel, who continued his run of useful contributions at number eight with a composed half-century, put on 116 for the seventh wicket.

Earlier, Steve Waugh, putting aside his role as union organizer, fell four runs short of a century after adding 17 to his overnight 79.

Waugh, secretary of the players' association in their ongoing pay dispute with the Australian Cricket Board, was bowled by an inswinging yorker from left-arm paceman Shayne O'Connor.

Australian vice-captain Waugh batted 213 minutes, faced 161 balls and hit 10 fours in his 96 — the seventh time he has been dismissed in the 90s in a Test match.

Only former West Indies batsman Alvin Kallicharman has been out more times in the 90s in Tests, suffering that fate eight times.

When New Zealand batted again, they endured a dismal start when opener Blair Pocock was removed for one off the last ball of the first over.

Pocock, restricted by a fractured toe sustained while fielding, hobbled to the crease and was out when he deflected a delivery from fast bowler Michael Kasprowicz to Greg Blewett at short leg.

New Zealand's cause was not helped when opener Bryan Young was run out for 23 after a breakdown in communications with No. 3 and wicketkeeper Adam Parore, who was 42 not out at the close.

Kewell hits vital goal as Australia draw with Iran

TEHRAN (Reuters) — Striker Harry Kewell scored a vital away goal as Australia drew 1-1 with Iran in their World Cup Asia/Oceania zone play-off first leg yesterday.

The Leeds United forward silenced a crowd of more than 100,000 in the Azadi Stadium by putting Australia ahead in the 19th minute of a pulsating game.

Iranian striker Khodadad Azizi prodded home an equalizer from close range three minutes before half-time after a period of intense pressure by the home side.

The second leg will be played in Melbourne on Saturday to decide the 32nd and last place at the 1998 World Cup finals in France.

Rangers edge Hurricanes; Wings down Stars

GREENSBORO, NC (AP) — Alexei Kovalev scored twice and Wayne Gretzky added a goal and two assists Friday night as the New York Rangers cooled off the hot Carolina Hurricanes 4-3.

Gretzky assisted on Kovalev's game-winning midway through the third period after the Hurricanes scored two goals in a span of 4:33 to tie the score at 3-3.

The first appearance of Gretzky, the National Hockey League's all-time scoring leader, at the Greensboro Coliseum drew a crowd of 19,358 — the largest of the

season for the Hurricanes, who were averaging fewer than 9,000 through their first 11 home games since moving from Hartford, Conn., in May.

The Hurricanes came into the game 8-3-1 in their past 12 games but played without leading scorer Gary Roberts, captain Kevin Dineen and goaltender Trevor Kidd, all of whom are out with various injuries.

Red Wings 4, Stars 2
In Detroit, Steve Yzerman started a flurry of three Detroit goals in a 1:02 span of the first period as the

Red Wings broke out of a recent scoring slump with a win over the Dallas Stars.

The Red Wings, held to 11 goals in their last five games, scored on four of their first five shots against two Stars goaltenders. Former Stars forward Brent Gilchrist and Kris Draper followed Yzerman with goals on consecutive shots midway through the first period, and that all came after Nicklas Lidstrom scored on Detroit's first shot.

Benoit Hogue and Joe Nieuwendyk scored third-period goals for Dallas.

CLASSIFIEDS

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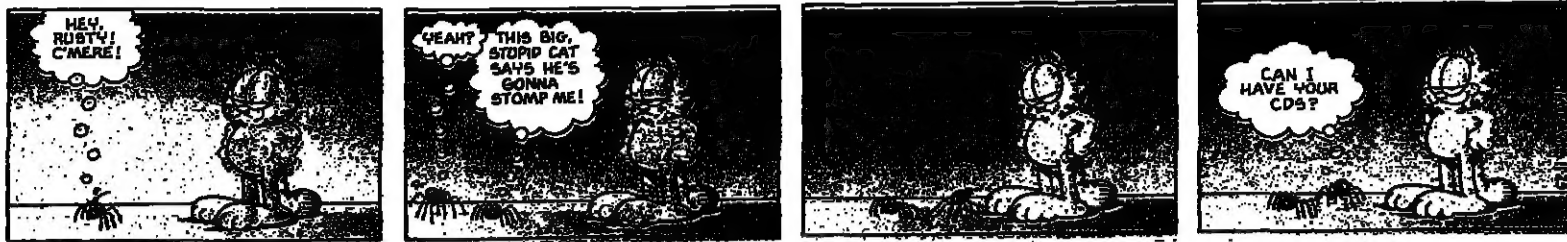
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THE JERUSALEM POST

Sunday Comics

GARFIELD



DILBERT



BY SCOTT ADAMS

PEANUTS

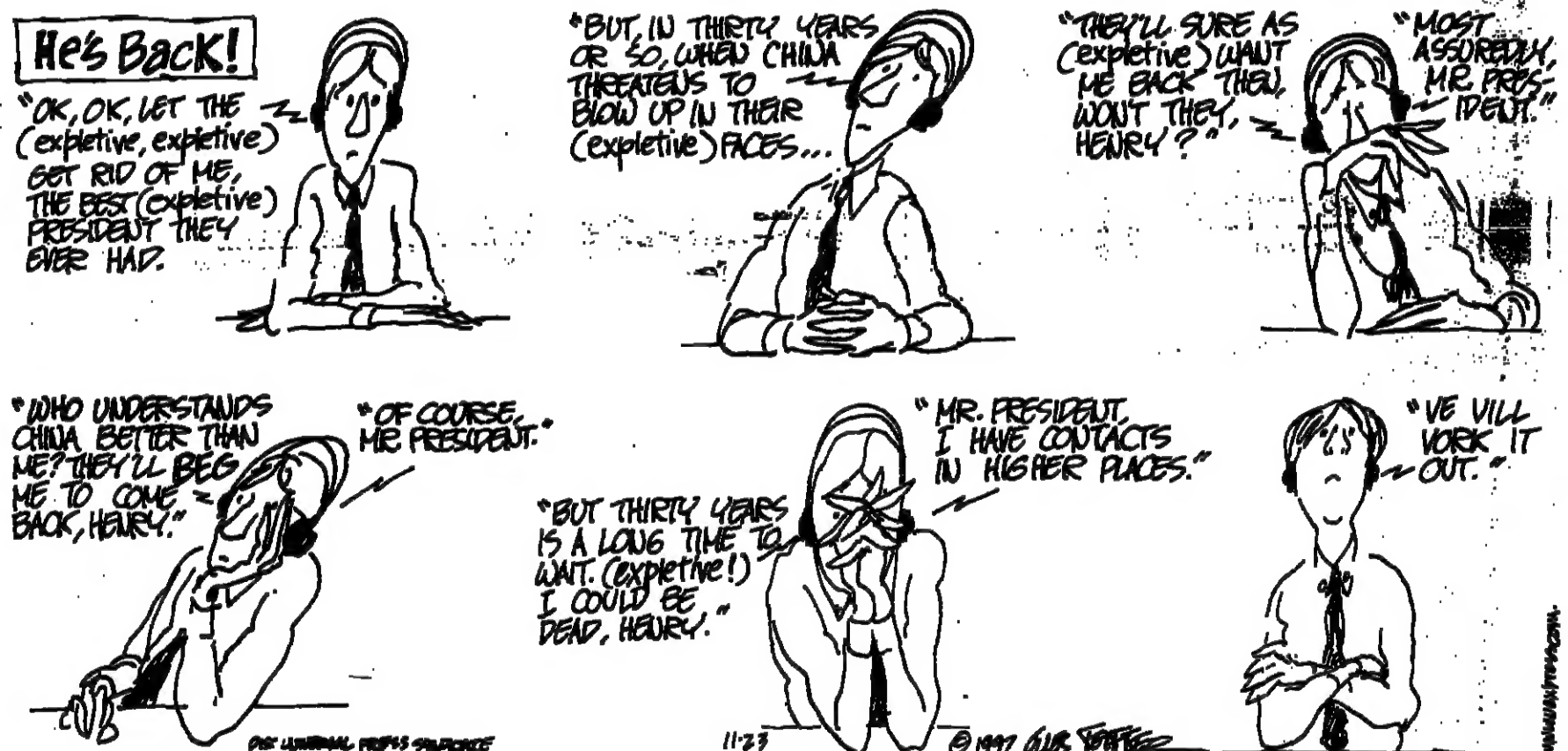


Doonesbury

BY G.B. IRUDEAU



FEIFFER



calvin and hobbes

by WATSON



CRITICS' CHOICE

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

French pianist Pascal Roge plays Darius Milhaud's *Le Carnaval d'Aix* and Francis Poulenc's piano concerto with the Haifa Symphony Orchestra under the baton of music director Stanley Sperber, who also leads the orchestra in Brahms's third symphony. Tonight, tomorrow, Wednesday and Thursday at the Haifa Auditorium (8:30).

Cellist Ralph Kirshbaum plays Schumann's cello concerto, while Philippe Entremont leads his Israel Chamber Orchestra in Mozart's 33rd symphony and Shostakovich's sinfonia for strings and woodwinds tonight and tomorrow (8:30) at the Tel Aviv Museum.

The Israel Philharmonic Orchestra performs Beethoven's ninth symphony under the baton of Kurt Masur tonight (10) in another IPO Jeans concert at the Mann Auditorium in Tel Aviv.

ENGLISH THEATER

HELEN KAYE

Jolly Lane directs the Netanya AACI Music Theater in *Say It With Music*, the Irving Berlin story, featuring that beloved composer's tunes. Tonight only at the Dora Community Hall. Tickets and info: AACI 09-8330950 or Monty and Barbara 09-8623477.

TELEVISION

ELANA CHIPMAN

The Family Channel is proud of having more and more Hebrew-language programs, and indeed since the beginning of the year it has increased its roster to include nightly talk shows with Yossi Siyas, Yair Lapid and Guy Pines, as well as original drama series such as *Cafe Paris* and *Deep Blue*.

Starting tonight, the channel (3) is initiating



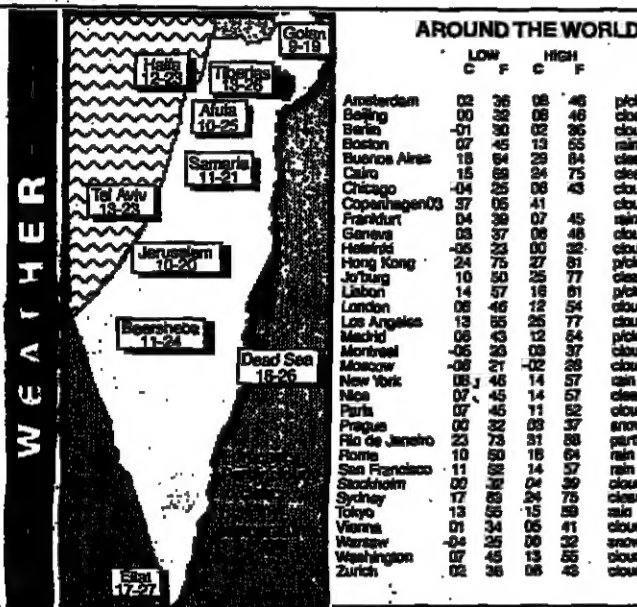
Yair Nitzani and Shirli Deshe star in the Family Channel parody 'His Excellency the Ambassador.'

another original drama. Tonight's show, *His Excellency the Ambassador*, at 8:50 p.m., is a timely parody written by satirist Ephraim Sidon set in an anonymous European country. The protagonist, portrayed by Yair Nitzani, is a politically appointed ambassador who does not do much to justify his existence until the monotony is broken one day by drug dealers and terrorists. With Uri Levy, Shirli Deshe and Tal Friedman.

DANCE

HELEN KAYE

The Israel Ballet's *Cinderella*, choreographed by Berta Yampolsky to Serge Prokofiev's music, is at the Yekneam auditorium tonight and at the Nahariya auditorium on Tuesday, both at 6 p.m.



WINNING CARDS
in yesterday's Miral Hapayis
daily chance drawing

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CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- Numbness has a lion under control? Correct! (12)
- Drag one's feet prior to dealing? (7)
- Endless row coming up over people in county? (7)
- Departed or not yet arrived? (4)
- From Cremona I returned cranked (2,3)
- Can it turn the tide for the overcast? (4)
- Silently, cattily, oddly? (7)
- Crosby upset about ageing but valuable writer (4,3)
- Nothing at breakfast, lunch or dinner but porridge? (7)
- Exclamation of those central to a girl? (7)
- One silver ring for an ancient mind-poisoner (4)

DOWN

- Cuts possibly made about one in charge are severe? (7)
- Cross f-football follower stands on his head (4)
- Where the cross peer got a denial in France? (7)
- Checking to see if the fare is all right? (7)
- Dummies found in ruined ash? (4)
- With hidden energy, Ali on a restored hump? (7)
- Monroe supporters say NATO's oil is its undoing (1,3)
- Blade entering ship is fun for kids (1,3)
- Unfairly 'e hurt Arthur's Dad? (5)
- Pounded up a street with dynamite (5)
- Language used to label a record? (7)
- Prepared for an awkward getting outside help (4,3)
- John Peel crazy for steady fruit? (4-3)
- The heart of the matter? (7)
- The sound of jive can reduce one to hobnobbing (4)
- Row back in a knot? (4)

SOLUTIONS

Quick Solution

ACROSS: 1 Knight, 4 Tense, 5 Tense, 9 Amused, 10 Eyecore, 11 Star, 12 New, 14 Asti, 15 Also, 18 Cat, 19 Ajar, 20 Exhausted, 25 Current, 26 Fatal, 27 Reels, 28 Flashed, 29 Taken, 30 Wasteful, 31 Shatter, 32 Caution, 33 Tenth, 34 Stolid, 35 Aorta, 36 Farm.

DOWN: 1 Kitten, 2 Illness, 3 Historic, 4 Tent, 5 April, 6 Elders, 7 Taken, 8 Wasteful, 9 Shatter, 10 Caution, 11 Tenth, 12 Stolid, 13 Aorta, 14 Farm.

QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- Fear greatly (5)
- Nothing (6)
- External (7)
- Wear away (5)
- eg Crotch (4)
- Not a pro? (7)
- eg Sable, mink (3)
- 14 R (4)
- Children's playthings (4)
- Mayday superseded it (1,1)
- Mixed (7)
- Stag (4)
- Heave up (5)
- Dampen (7)
- He acts for the king (6)
- Units of time (5)

DOWN

- Sewers (6)
- Happening (5)
- Act (4)
- Hams (8)
- Food shop (7)
- Belonging to them (6)
- 8 Film award (5)
- Scare (8)
- 15 Running away to wed (7)
- 17 An artist with acid (6)
- 18 Die (5)
- 19 Traits (6)
- 22 More (5)
- 23 Nost (4)

TV

CHANNEL 1

8:30 News Flash
8:31 News in Arabic
8:45 Good Morning Israel

EDUCATIONAL TV

8:00 Globe Watch
8:30 Desinos
9:00 News
9:15 Arithmetic
10:00 For the very young
11:00 Environment
11:30 Animals: The Mediterranean
12:00 Mathematics
12:30 Communication
13:00 Mathematics in Daily Life
13:15 Fruit of the Earth
13:30 Cartoons
15:00 Pretty Butterfly

CHANNEL 1

15:30 Pink Panther
16:25 Super Ben
16:50 Road to Avonlea
18:25 Super Ben
18:59 A New Evening
17:34 Zap to Basel - special
18:05 Super Ben
18:15 News in English

ARABIC PROGRAMS

18:30 Amal and Karam's Studio
19:00 News

HEBREW PROGRAMS

18:30 News Flash
18:31 News in Arabic
18:45 Good Morning Israel

CHANNEL 2

8:15 Today's programs
8:30 Coffee with Tel-Ad
8:40 Ruby
9:00 Thirty-something
11:00 All American
11:30 Empty Nest
12:00 Simon - comedy
12:30 The Ziad
13:00 Darwish Show
13:30 Rising High
13:50 Sport TV
14:00 Home and Away
14:30 Tic Tac
15:00 Barney the Dinosaur
15:30 Blossom
16:00 The Bold and the Beautiful
16:50 Different Driving
17:00 Five with Ruff
17:20 Twenty Plus
18:00 Post Charles
19:00 Movie Magic
19:25 World Travel
19:50 World Travel
20:00 News
20:30 I'll Be OK - entertainment show with Ariel Glaz
21:30 Fast with Ilana Dayan
22:15 I'll Be OK - entertainment show with Ariel Glaz
23:10 Night Meeting
00:05 Midnight Short
00:40 Soap - rerun
00:55 The Fury (1978)
01:00 FBI agent recruits the help of a girl with psychokinetic powers to save his similarly gifted son. With Kirk Douglas
02:00 On the Edge of the Shelf

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Inside

Healy sets Aussie record
Page 13Sports Editors
Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis

Jordan (49 points) leads Bulls to first road win

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Michael Jordan scored 49 points, including all nine of Chicago's points in the second overtime, to lead the Bulls to their first road victory of the season Friday night.

The Clippers, losing their eighth straight game, missed all six of their shots and failed to score in the second extra period.

Jordan scored the Bulls' final nine points in regulation and their last four in the first overtime, bringing Chicago from behind on both occasions.

Luc Longley had 22 points and 17 rebounds for Chicago, and Dennis Rodman added 10 points and 14 rebounds. Lamond Murray led Los Angeles, whose record fell to 1-11, with 24 points.

Green breaks record
A.C. Green wrote his name in the NBA record books on Thursday by playing his 90th straight game. Green was honored with a 23-minute celebration at halftime of the Dallas Mavericks' 101-97 overtime loss to the Golden State Warriors.

Hornets 119, Heat 102
In Charlotte, Charlotte gained its first comeback victory of the season Friday night as Glen Rice powered a fourth-quarter surge that lifted the Hornets to a 119-102 victory over the Miami Heat.

Rice, held to five points in the first half, finished with 26, including 13 in the last 6:15 as the Hornets improved to 7-3, the best start in franchise history.

All six of Charlotte's previous victories had come after the Hornets built leads after three quarters, but this time they rallied from a 91-87 deficit in the final seven minutes and outscored Miami 32-11 down the stretch.

Nicks 104, Wizards 82
In Landover, Maryland, Larry Johnson scored 23 points and New York used a big second quarter to hand Washington its fourth straight loss.

Patrick Ewing had 14 points and 10 rebounds for the Knicks, who have won six straight and 21 of 22 against Washington.

Cavaliers 103, Timberwolves 80
In Minneapolis, Wesley Person scored 22 points, Shawn Kemp had 19 and Cleveland dealt Minnesota its third straight home loss.

Fans at the Target Center booed the home team, whose two previous home losses were at least competitive — an overtime defeat against the Washington Wizards and a loss at the buzzer to the San Antonio Spurs.

The Wolves, who entered the game ranked third in the NBA in scoring, posted their lowest total of the season. Chris Carr scored 19 points and Kevin Garnett had 18, but Stephon Marbury was held to four points and three assists.

Celtics 101, Nets 93

In Boston, the Celtics avenged a loss to New Jersey that broke its four-game winning streak and beat the Nets behind 24 points and 12 rebounds from Antoine Walker.

Tyus Edney and Greg Minor came off the bench to score 12 points each and Ron Mercer, another substitute, added 11 for Boston, which didn't win its sixth game last season until Dec. 30 when it already had 21 losses en route to a 15-67 record.

SuperSonics 94, Spurs 74

In Seattle, Vin Baker scored 22 points and Gary Payton added 17 points and 14 assists as Seattle held San Antonio to a season-low point total.

Seattle raced to a 36-16 lead after one quarter and the Spurs pulled no closer than 17 the rest of the way.

Grizzlies 99, Nuggets 96
In Vancouver, British Columbia, Shafer Abdur-Rahim scored 28 points and Vancouver rallied to avoid becoming the first team to Denver this season.

The Nuggets, who have yet to win under rookie coach Bill Hamill, have lost a franchise record 10 straight to start the season. They remain the NBA's only winless team.

For standings and results see Page 13

Barnsley stun Liverpool, Man Utd march on

LONDON (Reuters) — The English premier league was turned upside down yesterday as bottom club Barnsley stunned Liverpool 1-0 at Anfield and Sheffield Wednesday welcomed back manager Ron Atkinson by beating high-flying Arsenal 2-0.

But champions Manchester United did not falter, beating Wimbledon 5-2, and Blackburn edged a high quality match against Chelsea 1-0 at Ewood Park.

United top the standings with 31 points, one ahead of Blackburn. Arsenal have 27 with Chelsea fourth on 25.

Everton are the league's new bottom side after losing 2-1 at Aston Villa.

Liverpool had won all five previous home league games this season, scoring 18 goals in the process, while Barnsley had shipped 11 in their last two away matches.

But the Yorkshire side silenced the Anfield crowd with a bizarre goal after 35 minutes. In a defensive mix-up Liverpool goalkeeper David James was left stranded and Patrick Berger could only help the ball straight into the path of Ashley Ward who nudged it into an empty net.

Liverpool seemed unable to get themselves fired up until the latter stages but the visitors held out for an unlikely victory.

Sheffield Wednesday handed

Arsenal their second defeat of the season to start Atkinson's second spell as manager on a high note.

The opening goal came courtesy of a terrible defensive blunder just before halftime by Frenchman Gilles Grimandi. He inexplicably passed the ball backwards to Andy Booth who slotted it under David Seaman.

Wednesday worked hard to keep the visitors at bay and settled the match with a late breakaway goal by Guy Whittingham.

"I've enjoyed the buzz of being back," said Atkinson who left

Premier League: Aston Villa 2, Everton 1; Blackburn 1, Chelsea 0; Derby 3, Coventry 1; Leicester 0, Bolton 0; Liverpool 0, Barnsley 1; Newcastle 2, Southampton 1; Sheffield Wednesday 2, Arsenal 0; Wimbledon 2, Manchester United 5.

Premier League	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
Manchester United	15	9	4	2	36	12	31
Blackburn	15	8	4	3	27	13	28
Aston Villa	15	7	4	4	20	17	25
Derby	15	7	3	5	20	23	24
Leicester	15	6	5	4	19	14	23
Liverpool	15	7	2	6	20	24	23
Sheffield Wednesday	15	6	4	5	25	22	22
Wimbledon	15	6	3	6	16	21	21
Southampton	15	5	3	7	15	18	18
Coventry	15	3	4	8	13	19	17
Sheff Wed	15	5	1	9	18	23	16
Sheff Wed	15	4	3	8	25	25	15
Sheff Wed	15	4	2	9	11	21	15
Barnsley	15	4	1	10	12	40	13
Everton	15	3	1	11	16	43	12

Hillsborough in acrimonious circumstances six years ago.

Manchester United went ahead three minutes after the break through Nicky Butt but not until David Beckham, who scored from inside his own half in this fixture last season, came on as a substitute did the sparks fly.

He scored with his first touch in the 66th minute but within four min-

utes Wimbledon were level, their goals coming from Neil Ardley and Michael Hughes.

Beckham immediately restored United's lead and then Paul Scholes and Andy Cole weighed in to sink the Dons.

While United's fans went away celebrating, hundreds of Wimbledon fans swarmed on to the pitch protesting against the club's proposed move to Dublin.

Division One: Bury 1, Sunderland 1; Gillingham 0, Stockport 1; Manchester City 1, Bradford 0; Norwich 2, Oxford United 1; Nottingham Forest 5, Charlton 2; Port Vale 0, Sheffield United 0; Queens Park Rangers 2, Huddersfield 1; Reading 0, Ipswich 4; Swindon 1, Middlesbrough 2; Tranmere 3, Stoke 1.

Division One	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
Manchester City	18	11	4	3	31	16	37
Sheff Wed	18	10	4	4	32	16	34
Sheff Wed	18	10	3	5	26	14	33
Sheff Wed	18	10	3	5	26	14	33
Sheff Wed	18	10	3	5	26	14	33
Sheff Wed	18	10	3	5	26	14	33
Sheff Wed	18	10	3	5	26	14	33
Sheff Wed	18	10	3	5	26	14	33
Sheff Wed	18	10	3	5	26	14	33
Sheff Wed	18	10	3	5	26	14	33

Division Two: Blackpool 1, York 0; Bournemouth 3, Carlisle 2; Bristol City 3, Wycombe 1; Grimsby 4, Burnley 1; Luton 0, Watford 1; Millwall 1, Chesterfield 1; Northampton 0, Walsley 1; Oldham 1, Brentford 1; Southend 1, Bristol Rovers 1; Wigan 1, Preston 4; Wrexham 1, Plymouth 1.

Division Three: Brighton 0, Cardiff 1; Colchester 0, Lincoln City 1; Darlington 1, Cambridge United 1; Doncaster 0, Rochdale 3; Exeter 2, Shrewsbury 2; Hartlepool 2, Barnet 0; Leyton Orient 1, Notts County 1; Macclesfield 2, Hull 0; Peterborough 1, Mansfield 1; Scarborough 1, Rotherham 2; Torquay 2, Scunthorpe 4.

Division Four: Barnet 0, Dagenham 1; Dulwich Hamlet 1, Abchurch 1; Hammersmith 1, St. Albans 1; Hibernian 0.

The day's other game between Leicester and Bolton ended goalless.

West Ham visit Leeds on today while Tottenham's first outing under new Swiss manager Christian Gross comes tomorrow at home against Crystal Palace.

Scottish Premier: Celtic 4, Dundee United 0; Dunfermline 1, Aberdeen 1; Motherwell 1, Rangers 1; St. Johnstone 1, Hibernian 0.

Scottish Premier Division

Scottish Premier Division	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
Celtic	13	10	3	0	30	14	33
Rangers	13	8	3	2	28	14	29
Dundee United	13	5	4	4	22	20	19
Dundee	13	5	4	4	22	20	19
Dundee	13	5	4	4	22	20	19
Dundee	13	5	4	4	22	20	19
Dundee	13	5	4	4	22	20	19
Dundee	13	5	4	4	22	20	19
Dundee	13	5	4	4	22	20	19
Dundee	13	5	4	4	22	20	19

All Blacks made to look mere mortals

MANCHESTER (Reuters) — New Zealand beat England 25-8 in the first of two internationals yesterday but the spirited performance of the new-look home side caused the stuttering All Blacks to look mere mortals.

The touring team dominated the game, scoring three tries to England's one and throwing a black blanket across the pitch whenever the home side attacked.

But they rarely hit the heights achieved in their 63-15 win over Ireland last weekend or built the remorseless pressure that has seen them win all but one of their test matches over the past two years.

But for dreadful place-kicking by England flyhalf Mike Catt, who kicked only one of five attempts at goal, the score would have been a lot closer. Catt's opposite number Andrew Mehrtens kicked two penalties and two conversions.

Unlike Ireland, England did not

tie in the second half.

They spent the last five minutes of the game played at Old Trafford, soccer's theater of dreams and home of Manchester United, camped on the All Blacks line.

The All Blacks lost their spark the longer the game went on and center Phil de Glanville scored England's try midway through the second half when a high crosskick from Catt was caught by substitute winger Austin Healey.

He was tackled but the ball bobbed free and the former England captain ran over from 10 meters.

At the final whistle, the crowd cheered the exhausted home side to the rafters and many England players raised their hands in triumph. Scrumhalf Kieran Bracken was a constant worry to the All Blacks while flanker and captain Lawrence Dallaglio was inspirational, both in attack and defence.

England had wiped away memories of their stuttering performance in the 15-15 draw against Australia last Saturday, their first game under new coach Clive Woodward.

The touring team, angered by English disruption of their pre-match talks, scored two tries by Ian Jones and Jeff Wilson within the first 17 minutes and a repeat of their 45-29 beating in the two sides' last meeting, the 1995 World Cup semifinal, looked on the cards.

The second half was a scrappy affair with England giving as good as they took before New Zealand flanker Taine Randell scored from a five-meter scrum. Mehrtens converted to make it 22-3. But De Glanville's score gave England heart.

The second test against England is on December 6 at Twickenham.

France 10, South Africa 52
In Paris, South Africa scored seven tries, including a record-equaling four by wing Peter Rossouw, as they crushed France 52-10 in the second Test to win the series 2-0.

The Springboks, superior in pace

and superb at turning defence into

offensive attack, became the first tour-

ing side to win successive series in

France as they spoilt the home

team's Parc des Princes farewell.

The French, whistled off by their

own fans at the end, stumbled on a

brilliant Springbok performance,

going down to their biggest defeat at

the Parc in their 66th and last match

at the ground.

Rossouw equalled Chester

Williams' four-try South African

record set against Western Samoa in

the 1995 World Cup quarter-final in

Johannesburg.

Flyhalf Henry Honiball scored the

final try and converted all seven as

well as punting over a penalty for a

personal tally of 22 points.

The Springboks were given a

standing ovation by the near capacity

42,000 crowd as they did a lap of

honor.



SURGING AHEAD — All Black winger Jonah Lomu breaks through the England defense.

(Reuters)

Scottland 8, Australia 37

In Edinburgh, two superb individual tries from fullback Stephen Larkham helped Australia end a disappointing run of form with a record 37-8 victory over Scotland at Murrayfield.

After the Wallabies lost to Argentina two weeks ago and managed only a backluster 15-15 draw with England last weekend, Larkham lifted their spirits with two

brilliant runs to score in the second

half.

The touring team ran in five tries,

four of them after the interval.

Left winger Joe Roff, scrumhalf

George Gregan and number eight

William O'Connell also crossed the

Scotland line as the Wallabies

finally managed to produce the

attacking, running rugby which their

coach Rod Macqueen has been urg-

ing them to play for the past month.

Second Division: Hapoel Lod 1,

Maccabi Kiryat Gat 2; Betar Tel Aviv 1,

Bnei Sakhnin 0; Hapoel Bat Yam 2,

Maccabi Yotvata 0; Hapoel Ramat Gan 0,

Ness Ziona 0; Hapoel Ashdod 2, Hapoel

Ramat Gan 0; Maccabi Netanya 3, Hapoel

Tel Aviv 1; Maccabi Acre 1, Maccabi

Kana 0; Zvornik Holon 1, Maccabi Jaffa 1.

Standings

P W D L F A Pts

Hapoel Tel Aviv 12 7 4 1 35 12 25

Hapoel Kiryat Gat 12 6 4 0 29 14 24

Hapoel Ramat Gan 12 7 3 2 31 18 24

Hapoel Yotvata 12 6 4 2 20 12 22

Hapoel Ashdod 12 5 3 4 21 21 19

Hapoel Lod 12 5 3 4 18 13 19

Hapoel Bat Yam 12 4 5 3 15 16 17

Hapoel Netanya 12 4 5 3 14 15 17

Hapoel Tel Aviv 12 4 5 3 14 15 17

Hapoel Kiryat Gat 12 4 5 3 14 15 17

Hapoel Yotvata 12 4 5 3 14 15 17

Hapoel Ashdod 12 4 5 3 14 15 17

Hapoel Lod 12 4 5 3 14 15 17

Hapoel Bat Yam 12 4 5 3 14 15 17

Hapoel Netanya 12 4 5 3 14 15 17

Hapoel Tel Aviv 12 4 5 3 14 15 17

Hapoel Kiryat Gat 12 4 5 3 14 15 17

Hapoel Yotvata 12 4 5 3 14 15 17

Hapoel Ashdod 12 4 5 3 14 15 17

Hapoel Lod 12 4 5 3 14 15 17

Hapoel Bat Yam 12 4 5 3 14 15 17

Hapoel Netanya 12 4 5 3 14 15 17

Hapoel Tel Aviv 12 4 5 3 14 15 17

Hapoel Kiryat Gat 12 4 5 3 14 15 17

Hapoel Yotvata 12 4 5 3 14 15 17

Hapoel Ashdod 12 4 5 3 14 15 17

Hapoel Lod 12 4 5 3 14 15 17

Hapoel Bat Yam 12 4 5 3 14 15 17

Hapoel Netanya 12 4 5 3 14 15 17

Hapoel Tel Aviv 12 4 5 3 14 15 17

Hapoel Kiryat Gat 12 4 5 3 14 15 17

Hapoel Yotvata 12 4 5 3 14 15 17

Hapoel Ashdod 12 4 5 3 14 15 17

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